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WITCHBLADE

8
FEB
DIGITAL EDITION
US

WITCHBLADE®

created by **Marc Silvestri**, **David Wohl**, **Brian Haberlin** & **Michael Turner**

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city. During a brutal warehouse massacre, Sara bonded with the Witchblade, an ancient weapon that transformed her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings.

Previously...Sara's search into the cover-up that destroyed her father and the supernatural forces surrounding her have led Sara and the mysterious warrior, Ian Nottingham, to billionaire Kenneth Irons. Irons has money, power, and associates from the darkest corners of the underworld. Face to face, Irons revealed Ian as his puppet and his doubt as to whether Sara deserved to wield such a powerful weapon. Using a Sickle Key, a supernatural relic that can open a pocket dimension, Irons transported Sara to a hidden arena where she was thrust into a life-or-death struggle against criminals, killers, and beings with abilities outside the natural world. Broken and betrayed by Ian, Sara struggled against the horde when Nottingham finally broke from Irons control and fought by Sara's side. Outnumbered, Ian used his inside knowledge of the supernatural space and opened the way for them to escape...for now. Meanwhile...a young member of the Franchetti crime family, on the verge of his twenty-first birthday, is also working in the city.

"Trouble In Mind"

Written by **Marguerite Bennett**
Line art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**
Colors by **Arif Prianto**
Letters by **Troy Peteri**
Edits by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt Hawkins** and **Ryan Cady**

Cover A: **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**
Cover B: **Camilla d'Errico** and **Asuka111**
Top Cow Store Foil Exclusive: **Camilla d'Errico** and **Asuka111**

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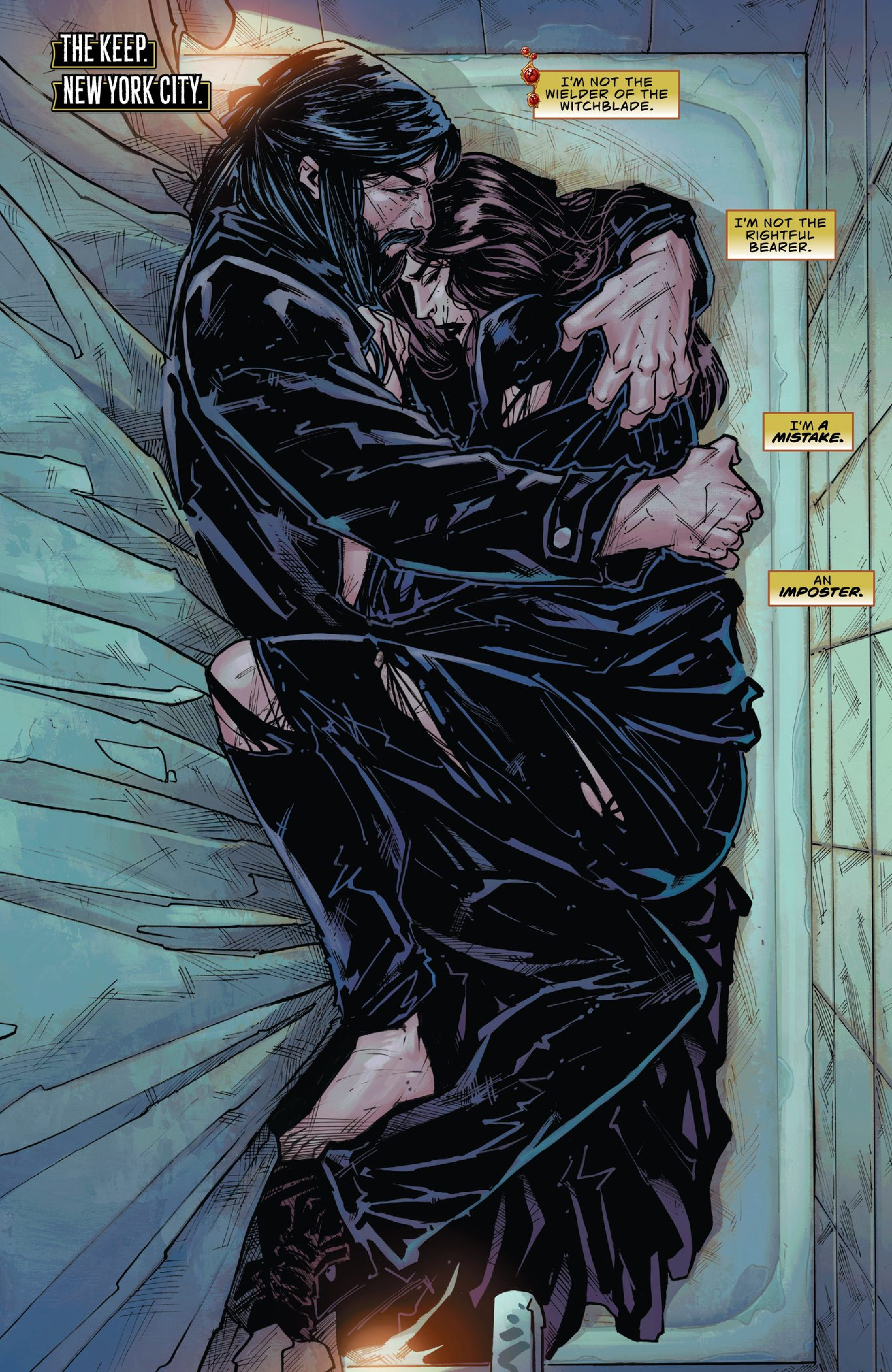
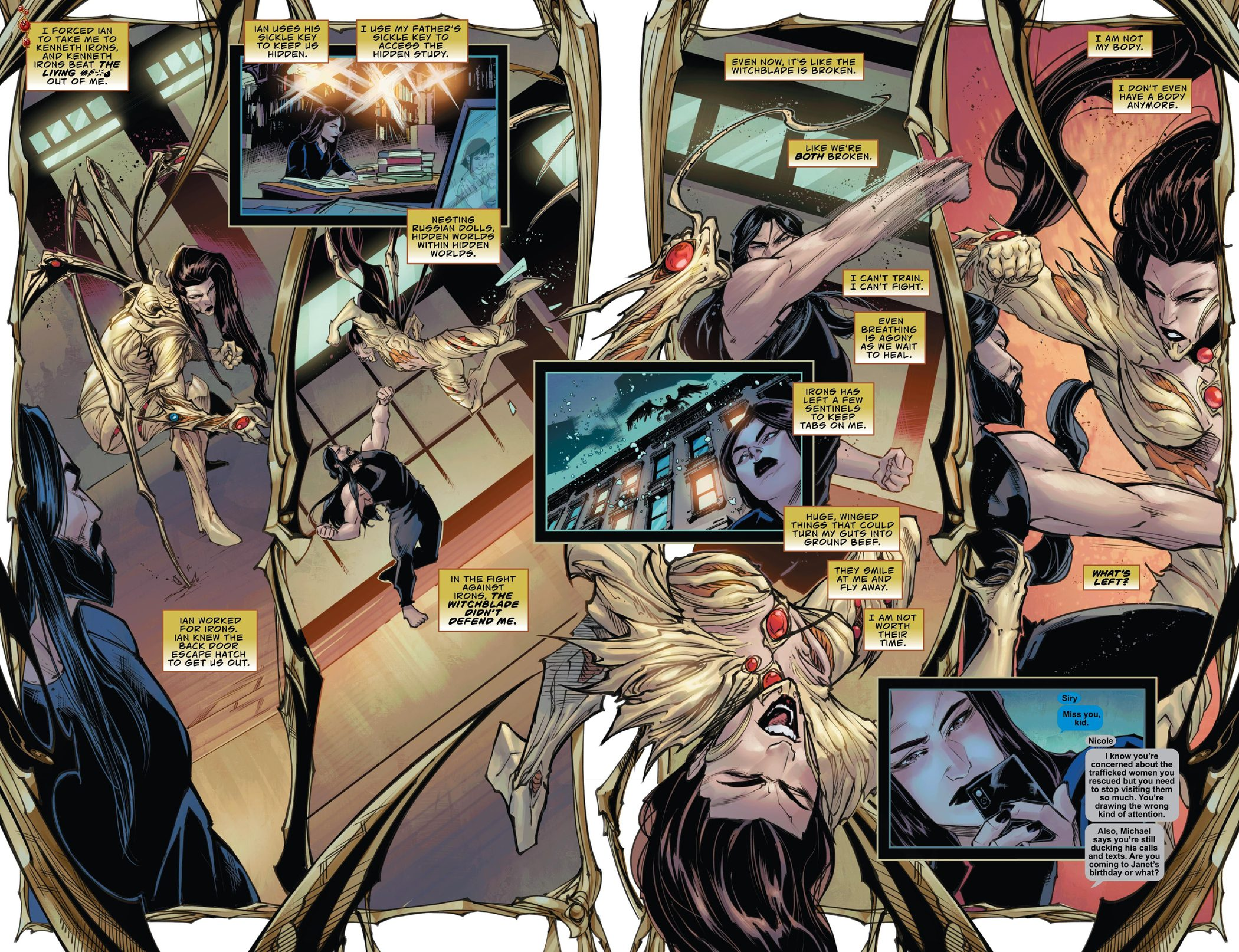
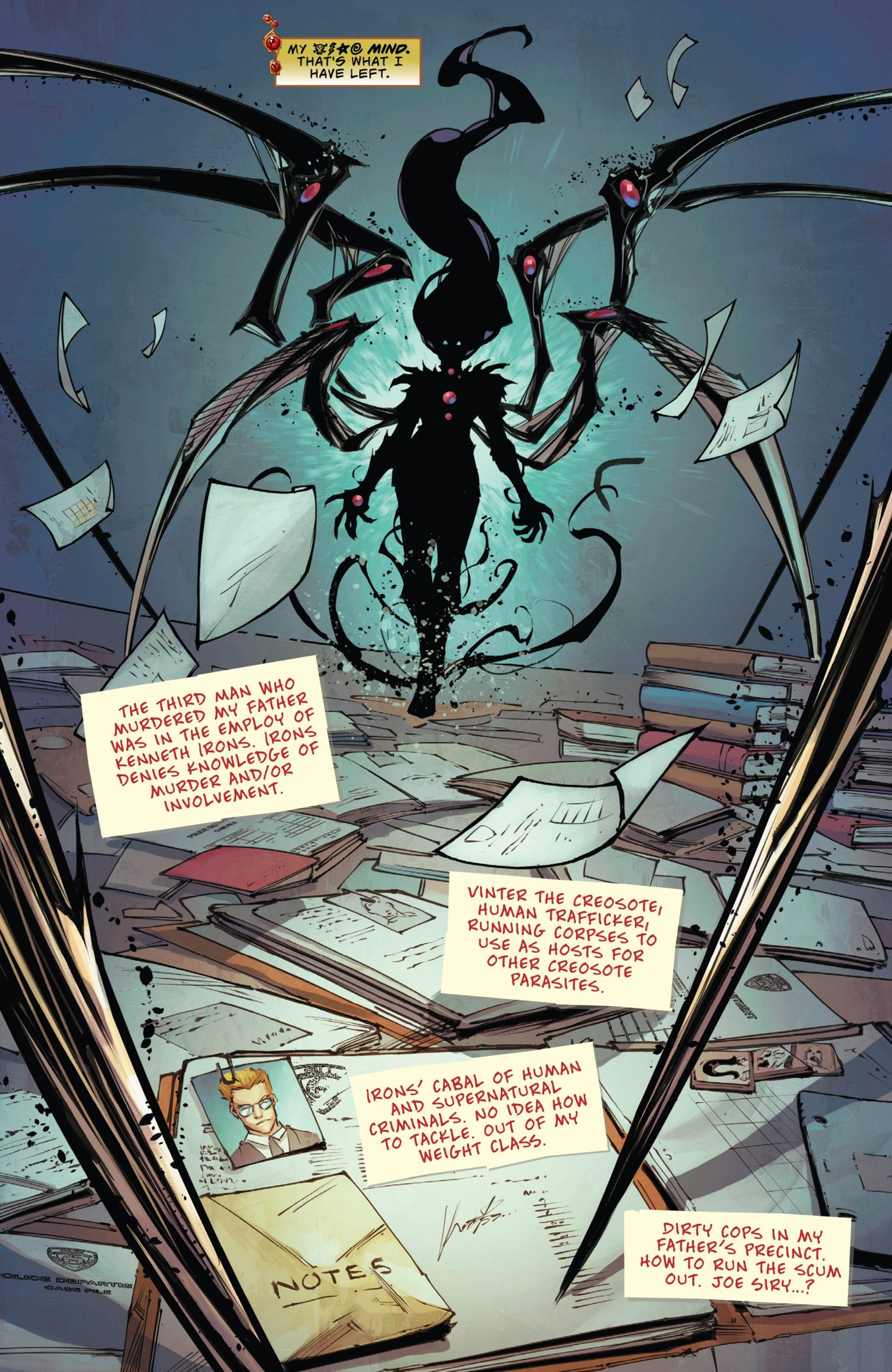
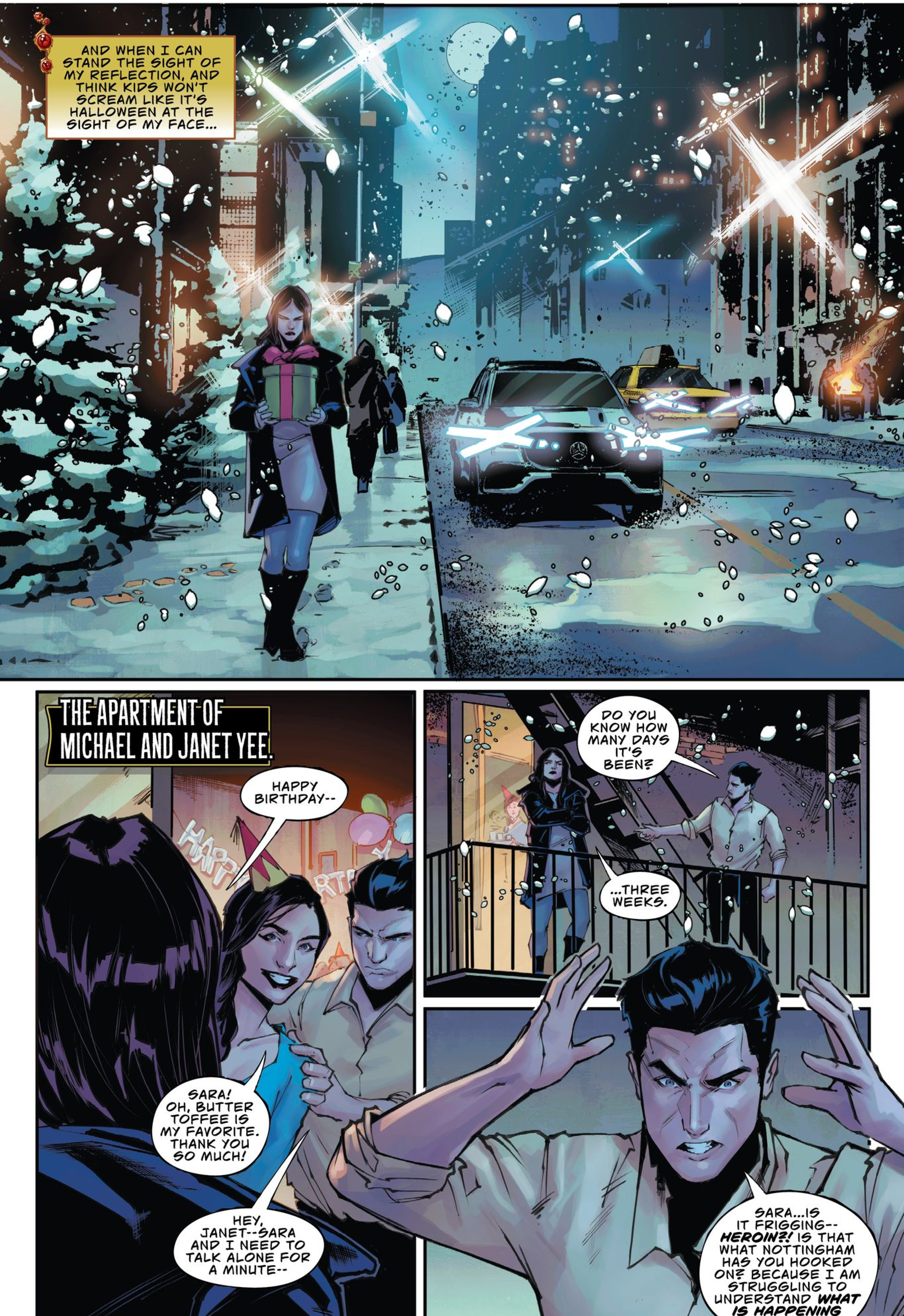
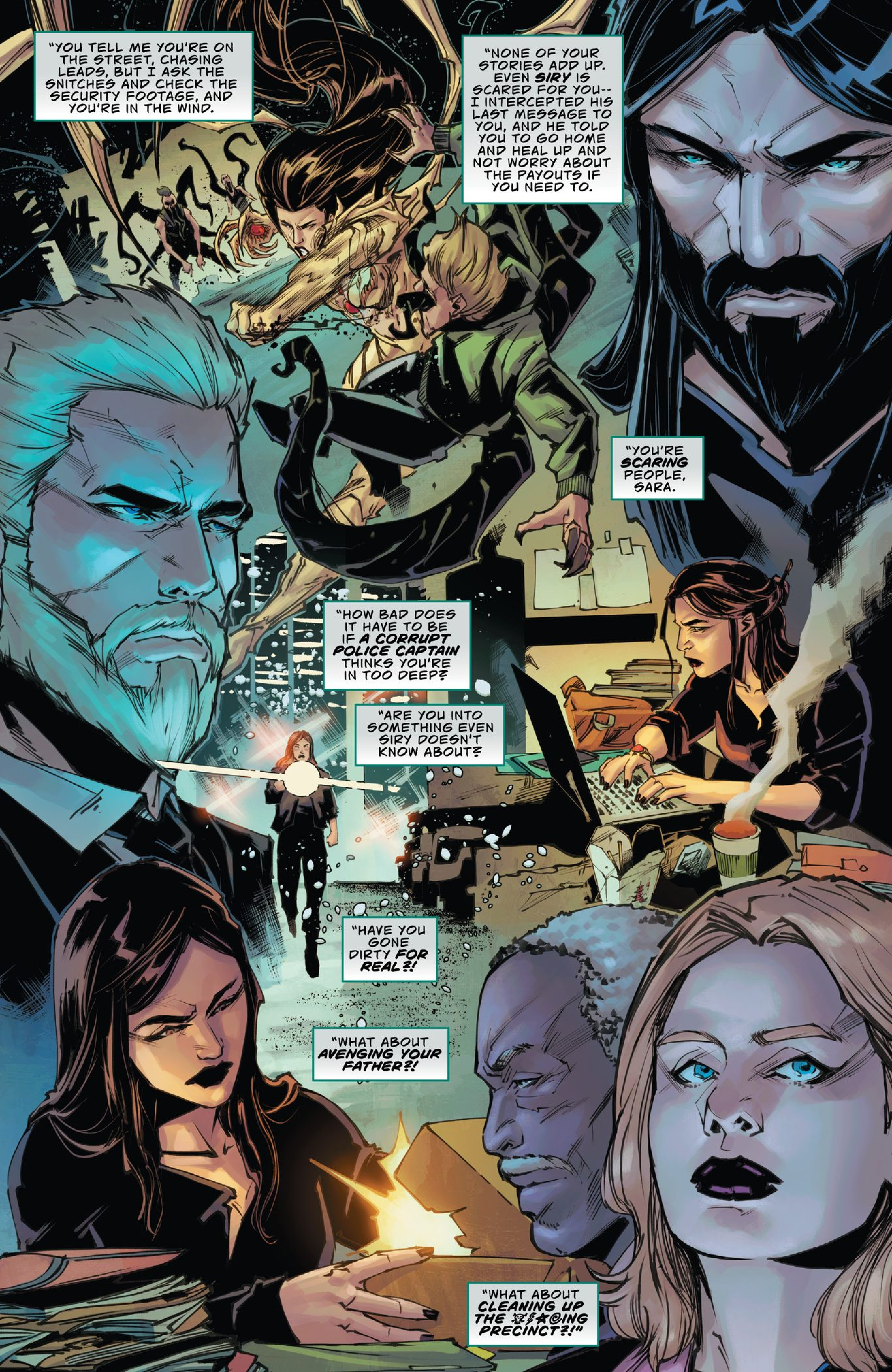
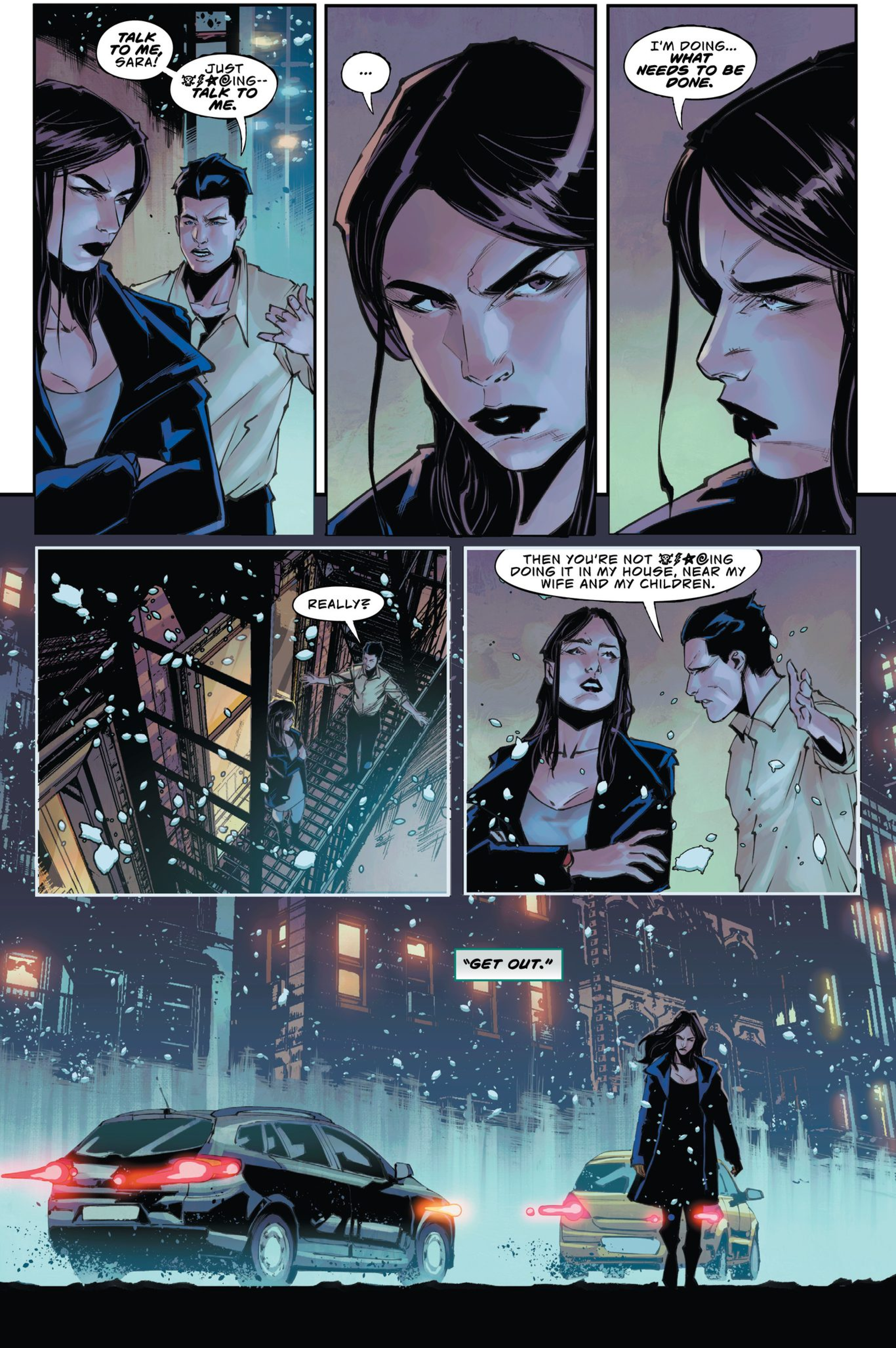

THE KEEP.
NEW YORK CITY.
I'M NOT THE WIELDER OF THE WITCHBLADE.
I'M NOT THE RIGHTFUL BEARER.
I'M A *MISTAKE.*
AN *IMPOSTER.*

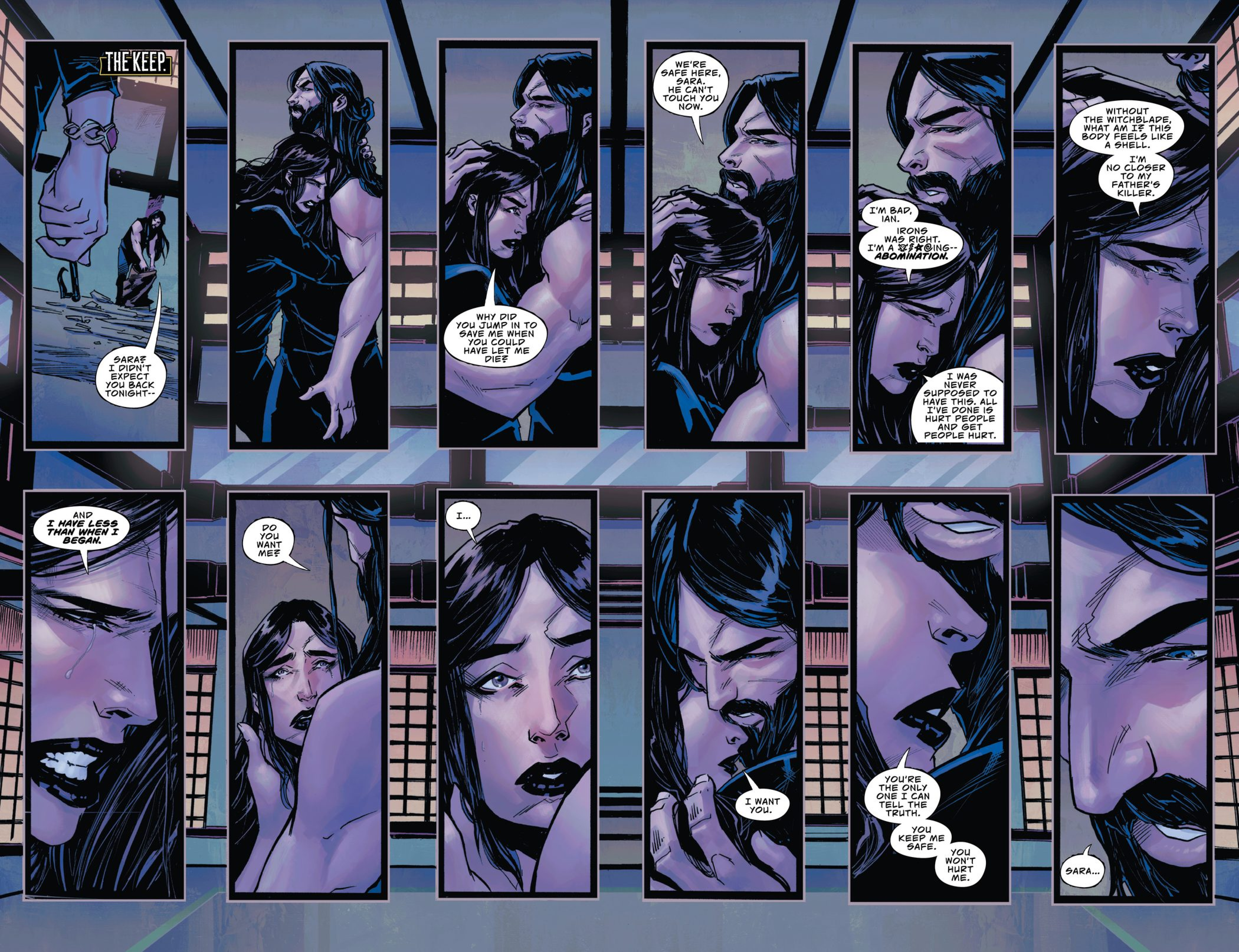

I FORCED IAN TO TAKE ME TO KENNETH IRONS, AND KENNETH IRONS BEAT ***THE LIVING $&*●*** OUT OF ME.
IAN USES HIS SICKLE KEY TO KEEP US HIDDEN.
I USE MY FATHER'S SICKLE KEY TO ACCESS THE HIDDEN STUDY.
NESTING RUSSIAN DOLLS, HIDDEN WORLDS WITHIN HIDDEN WORLDS.
IAN WORKED FOR IRONS. IAN KNEW THE BACK DOOR ESCAPE HATCH TO GET US OUT.
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST IRONS, ***THE WITCHBLADE DIDN'T DEFEND ME.***
EVEN NOW, IT'S LIKE THE WITCHBLADE IS BROKEN.
LIKE WE'RE ***BOTH*** BROKEN.
I CAN'T TRAIN. I CAN'T FIGHT.
EVEN BREATHING IS AGONY AS WE WAIT TO HEAL.
IRONS HAS LEFT A FEW SENTINELS TO KEEP TABS ON ME.
HUGE, WINGED THINGS THAT COULD TURN MY GUTS INTO GROUND BEEF.
THEY SMILE AT ME AND FLY AWAY.
I AM NOT WORTH THEIR TIME.
I AM NOT MY BODY.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE A BODY ANYMORE.
WHAT'S LEFT?
Siry
Miss you, kid.
Nicole
I know you're concerned about the trafficked women you rescued but you need to stop visiting them so much. You're drawing the wrong kind of attention.
Also, Michael says you're still ducking his calls and texts. Are you coming to Janet's birthday or what?

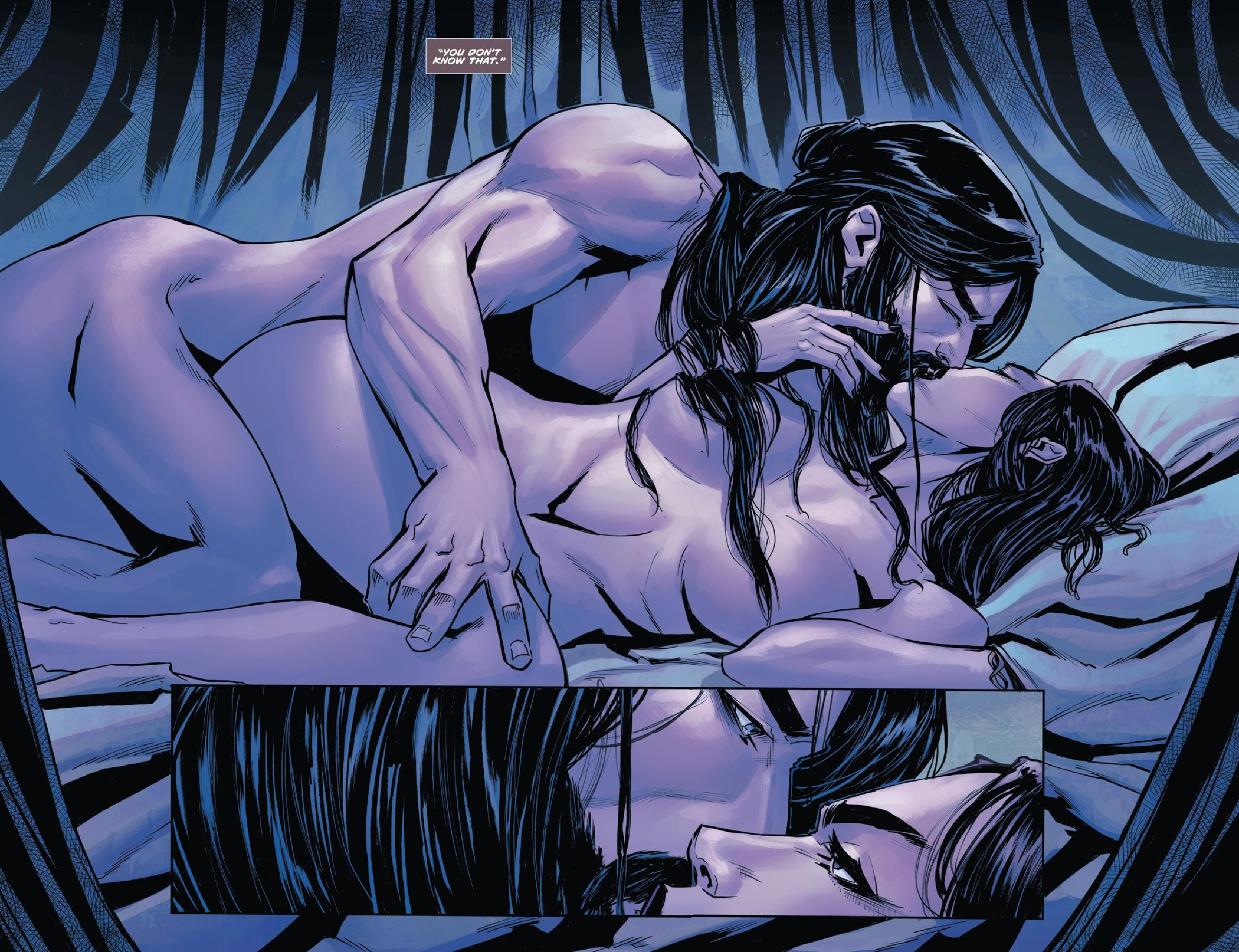

MY ☠§★@ ***MIND.*** THAT'S WHAT I HAVE LEFT.
THE THIRD MAN WHO MURDERED MY FATHER WAS IN THE EMPLOY OF KENNETH IRONS. IRONS DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF MURDER AND/OR INVOLVEMENT.
VINTER THE CREOSOTE, HUMAN TRAFFICKER, RUNNING CORPSES TO USE AS HOSTS FOR OTHER CREOSOTE PARASITES.
IRONS' CABAL OF HUMAN AND SUPERNATURAL CRIMINALS. NO IDEA HOW TO TACKLE. OUT OF MY WEIGHT CLASS.
NOTES
POLICE DEPARTM
CASE FILE
DIRTY COPS IN MY FATHER'S PRECINCT. HOW TO RUN THE SCUM OUT. JOE SIRY...?

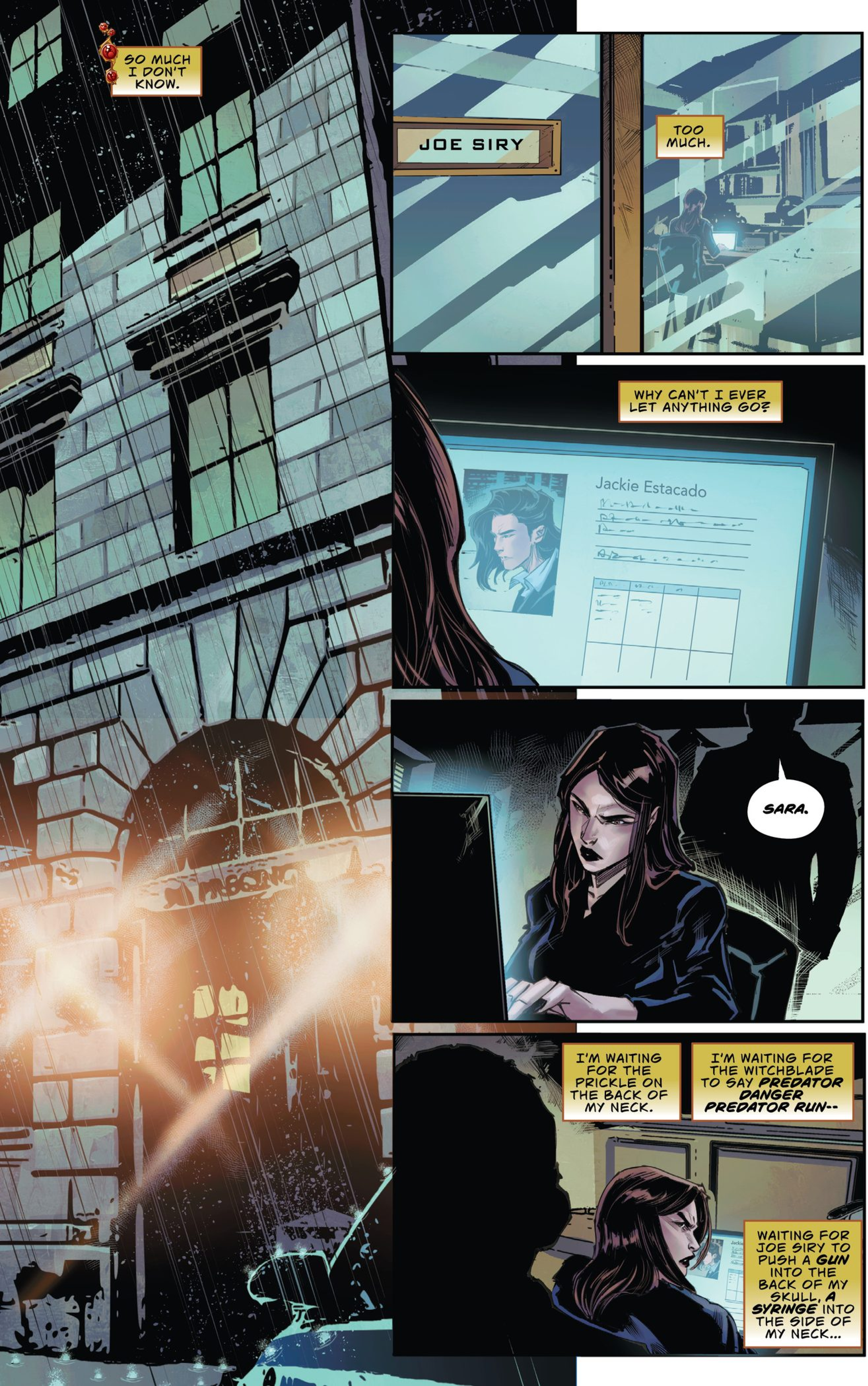

AND WHEN I CAN STAND THE SIGHT OF MY REFLECTION, AND THINK KIDS WON'T SCREAM LIKE IT'S HALLOWEEN AT THE SIGHT OF MY FACE...
THE APARTMENT OF MICHAEL AND JANET YEE.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY--
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
SARA! OH, BUTTER TOFFEE IS MY FAVORITE. THANK YOU SO MUCH!
HEY, JANET--SARA AND I NEED TO TALK ALONE FOR A MINUTE--
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY DAYS IT'S BEEN?
...THREE WEEKS.
SARA...IS IT FRIGGING--*HEROIN?!* IS THAT WHAT NOTTINGHAM HAS YOU HOOKED ON? BECAUSE I AM STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND *WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU.*

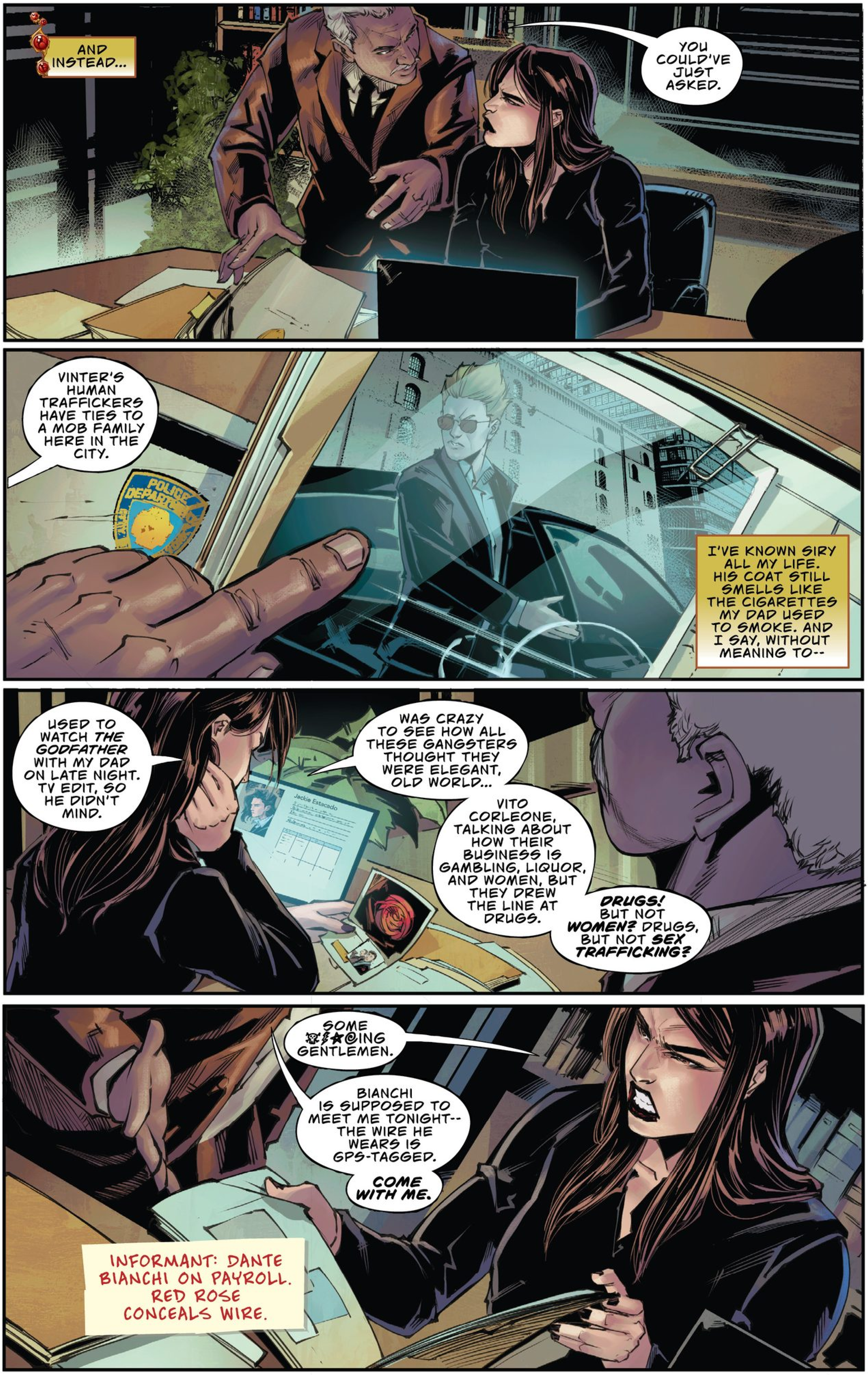

"YOU TELL ME YOU'RE ON THE STREET, CHASING LEADS, BUT I ASK THE SNITCHES AND CHECK THE SECURITY FOOTAGE, AND YOU'RE IN THE WIND.
"NONE OF YOUR STORIES ADD UP. EVEN SIRY IS SCARED FOR YOU-- I INTERCEPTED HIS LAST MESSAGE TO YOU, AND HE TOLD YOU TO GO HOME AND HEAL UP AND NOT WORRY ABOUT THE PAYOUTS IF YOU NEED TO.
"YOU'RE SCARING PEOPLE, SARA.
"HOW BAD DOES IT HAVE TO BE IF A CORRUPT POLICE CAPTAIN THINKS YOU'RE IN TOO DEEP?
"ARE YOU INTO SOMETHING EVEN SIRY DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT?
"HAVE YOU GONE DIRTY FOR REAL?!
"WHAT ABOUT AVENGING YOUR FATHER?!
"WHAT ABOUT CLEANING UP THE ☠⚡★@ING PRECINCT?!"

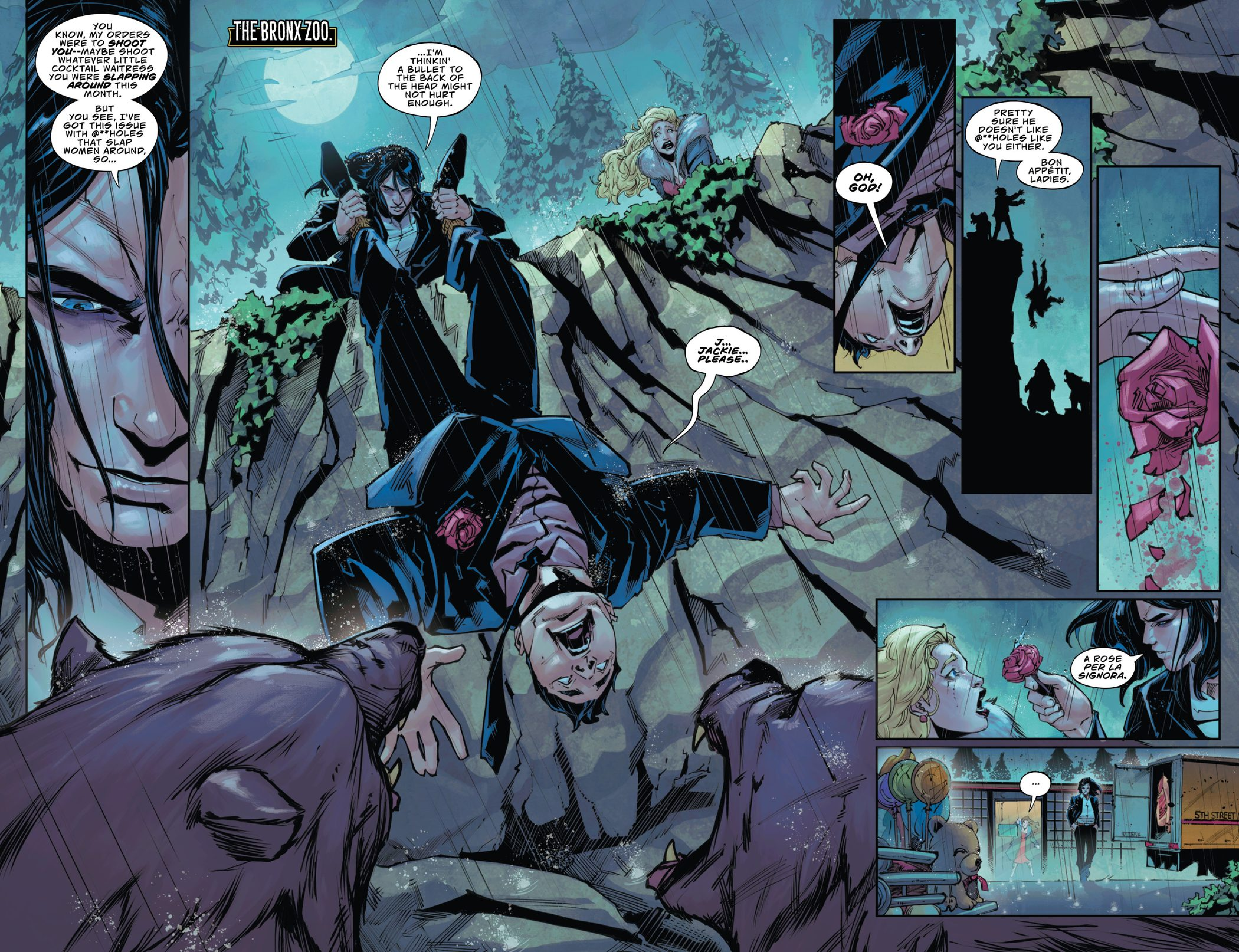

TALK TO ME, SARA!
JUST ☠⚡★@ING-- TALK TO ME.
...
I'M DOING... WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
REALLY?
THEN YOU'RE NOT ☠⚡★@ING DOING IT IN MY HOUSE, NEAR MY WIFE AND MY CHILDREN.
"GET OUT."

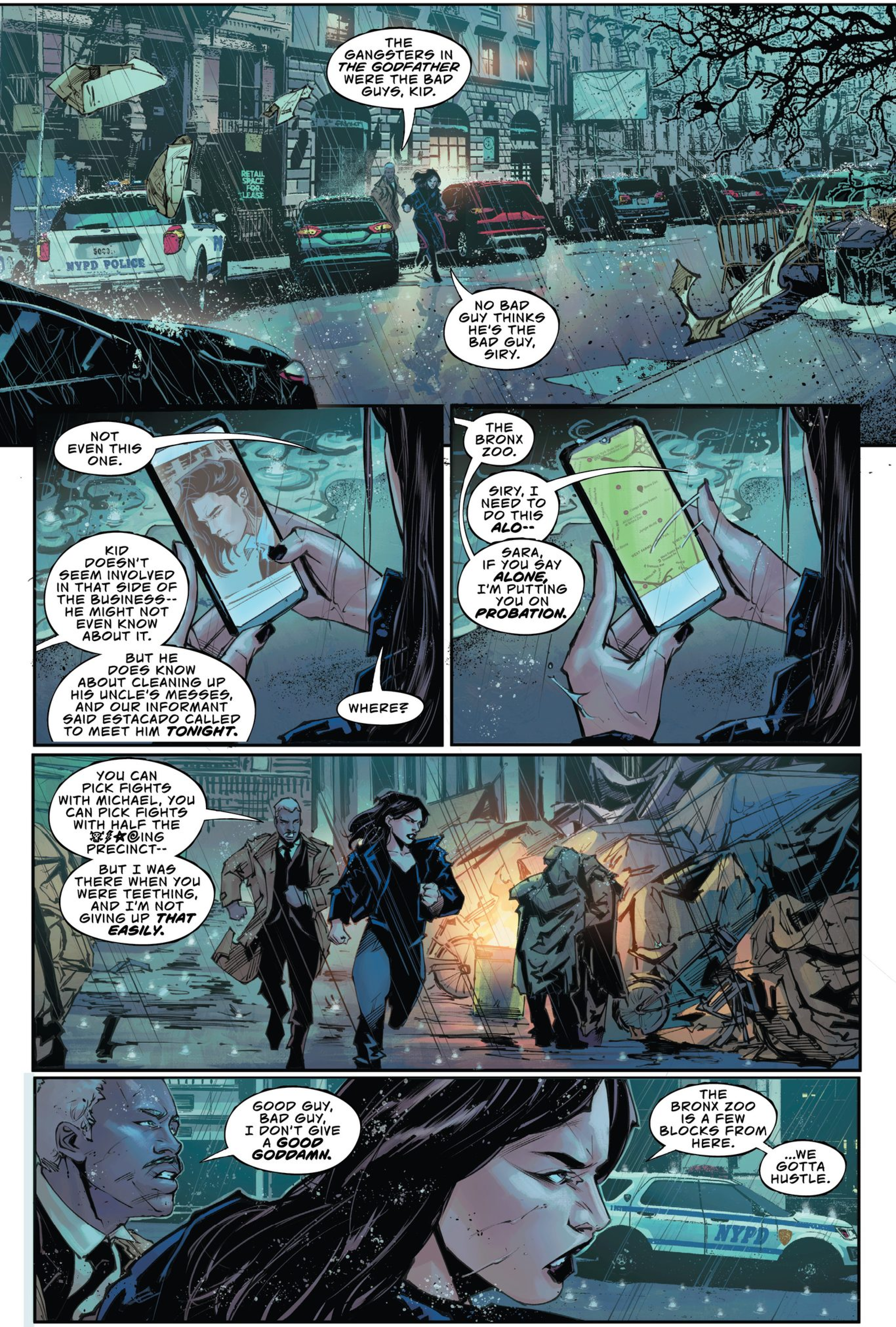

THE KEEP.
SARA? I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU BACK TONIGHT--
WHY DID YOU JUMP IN TO SAVE ME WHEN YOU COULD HAVE LET ME DIE?
WE'RE SAFE HERE, SARA. HE CAN'T TOUCH YOU NOW.
I'M BAD, IAN.
IRONS WAS RIGHT. I'M A ☠#★@ING-- ***ABOMINATION.***
I WAS NEVER SUPPOSED TO HAVE THIS. ALL I'VE DONE IS HURT PEOPLE AND GET PEOPLE HURT.
WITHOUT THE WITCHBLADE, WHAT AM I? THIS BODY FEELS LIKE A SHELL.
I'M NO CLOSER TO MY FATHER'S KILLER.
AND ***I HAVE LESS THAN WHEN I BEGAN.***
DO YOU WANT ME?
I...
I WANT YOU.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TELL THE TRUTH.
YOU KEEP ME SAFE.
YOU WON'T HURT ME.
SARA...

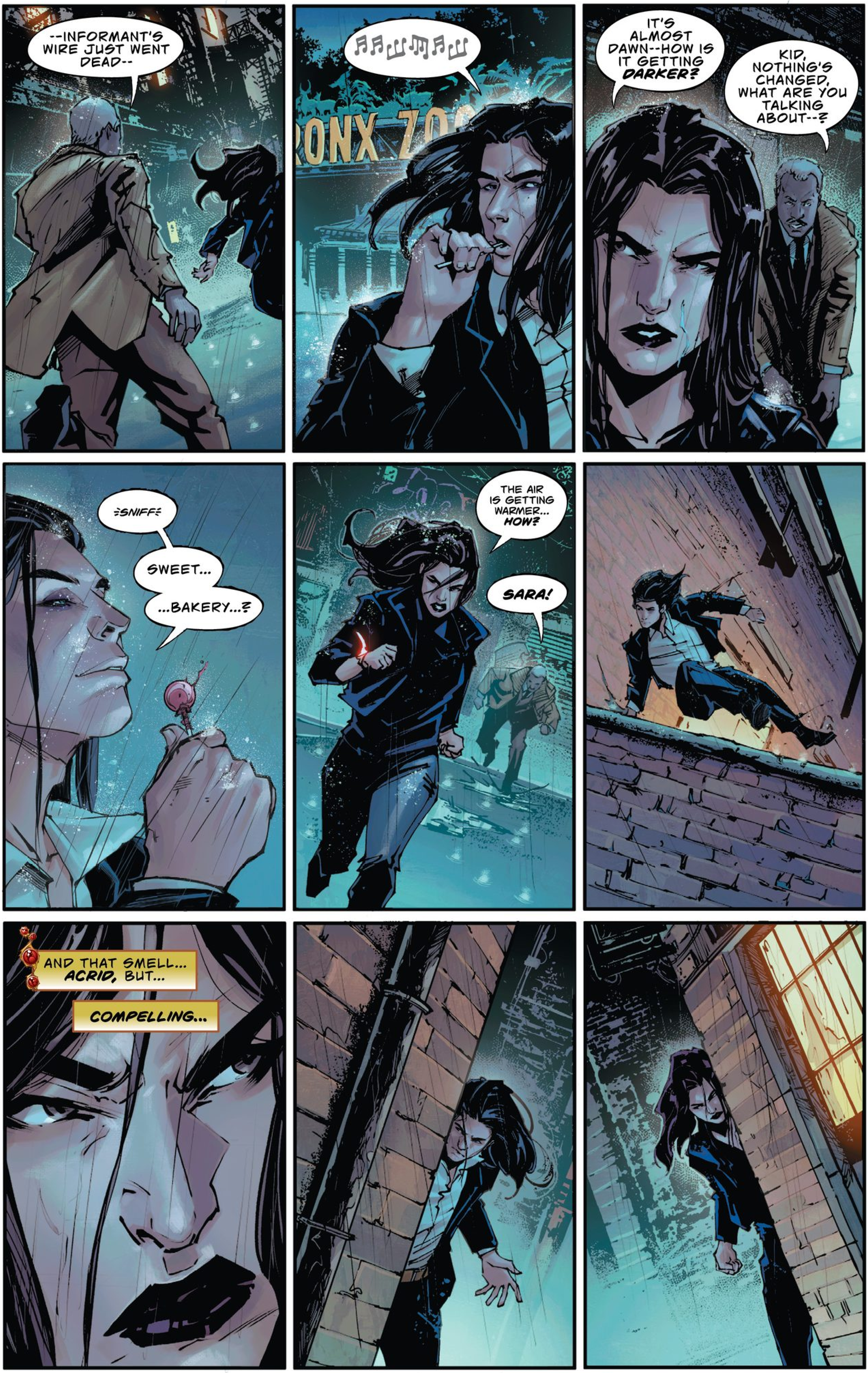

"YOU DON'T KNOW THAT."

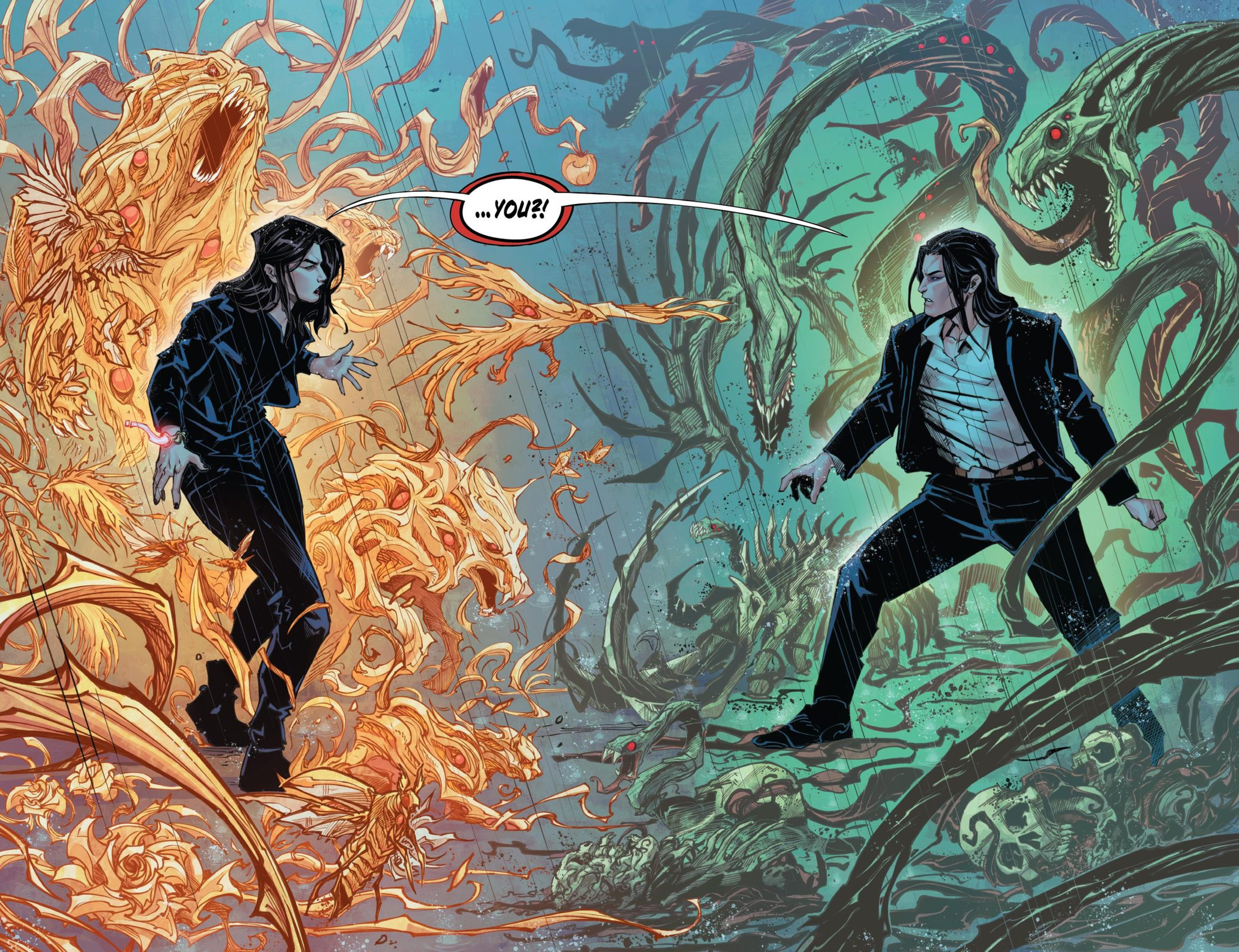

SO MUCH I DON'T KNOW.
JOE SIRY
TOO MUCH.
WHY CAN'T I EVER LET ANYTHING GO?
Jackie Estacado
SARA.
I'M WAITING FOR THE PRICKLE ON THE BACK OF MY NECK.
I'M WAITING FOR THE WITCHBLADE TO SAY *PREDATOR DANGER PREDATOR RUN*--
WAITING FOR JOE SIRY TO PUSH A *GUN* INTO THE BACK OF MY SKULL, *A SYRINGE* INTO THE SIDE OF MY NECK...

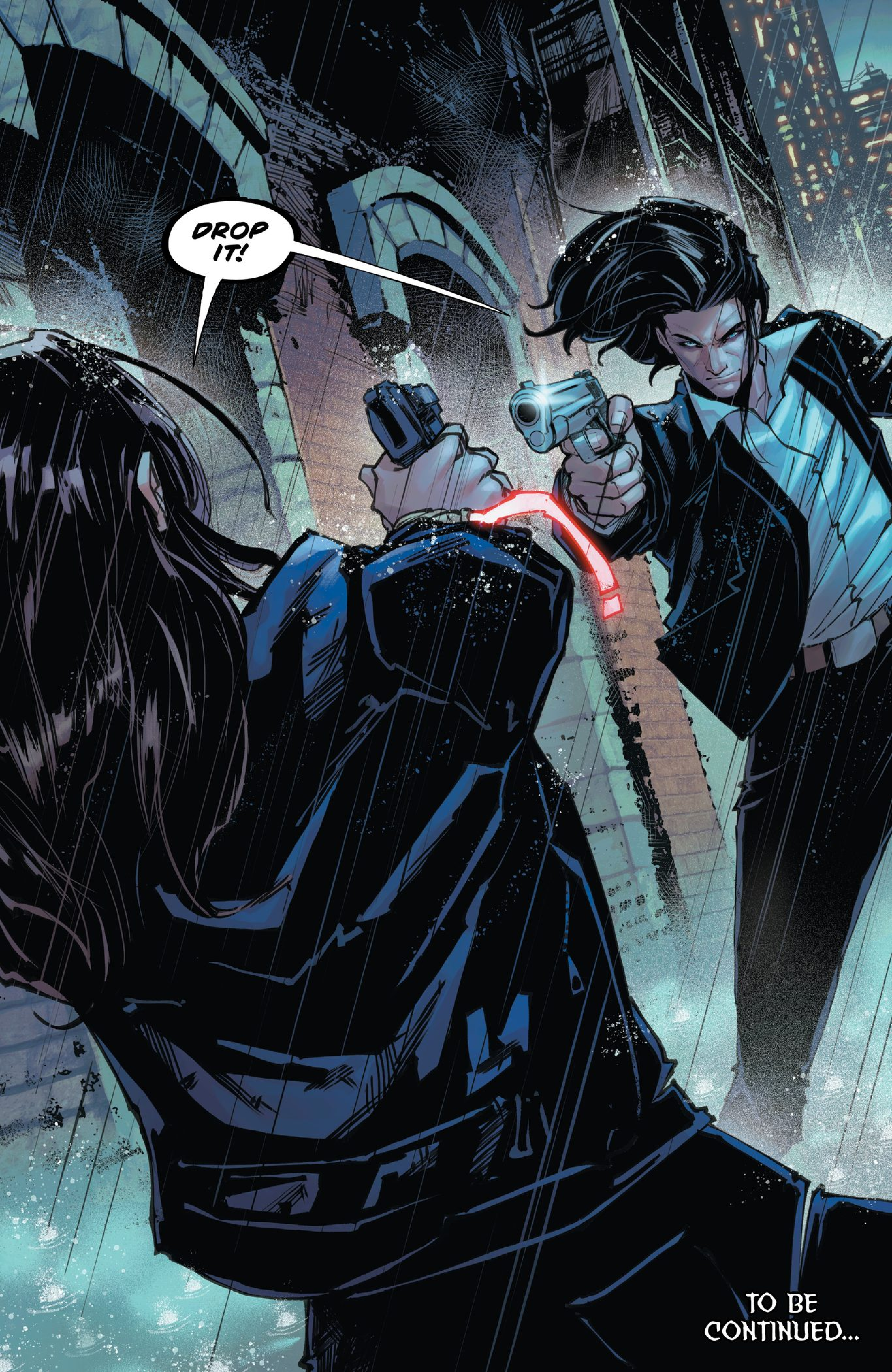

AND INSTEAD...
YOU COULD'VE JUST ASKED.
VINTER'S HUMAN TRAFFICKERS HAVE TIES TO A MOB FAMILY HERE IN THE CITY.
POLICE DEPARTMENT
I'VE KNOWN SIRY ALL MY LIFE. HIS COAT STILL SMELLS LIKE THE CIGARETTES MY DAD USED TO SMOKE. AND I SAY, WITHOUT MEANING TO--
USED TO WATCH *THE GODFATHER* WITH MY DAD ON LATE NIGHT. TV EDIT, SO HE DIDN'T MIND.
Jackie Estacado
WAS CRAZY TO SEE HOW ALL THESE GANGSTERS THOUGHT THEY WERE ELEGANT, OLD WORLD...
VITO CORLEONE, TALKING ABOUT HOW THEIR BUSINESS IS GAMBLING, LIQUOR, AND WOMEN, BUT THEY DREW THE LINE AT DRUGS.
DRUGS! BUT NOT ***WOMEN?*** DRUGS, BUT NOT ***SEX TRAFFICKING?***
SOME ☠⚡★@ING GENTLEMEN.
BIANCHI IS SUPPOSED TO MEET ME TONIGHT-- THE WIRE HE WEARS IS GPS-TAGGED.
COME WITH ME.
INFORMANT: DANTE BIANCHI ON PAYROLL. RED ROSE CONCEALS WIRE.

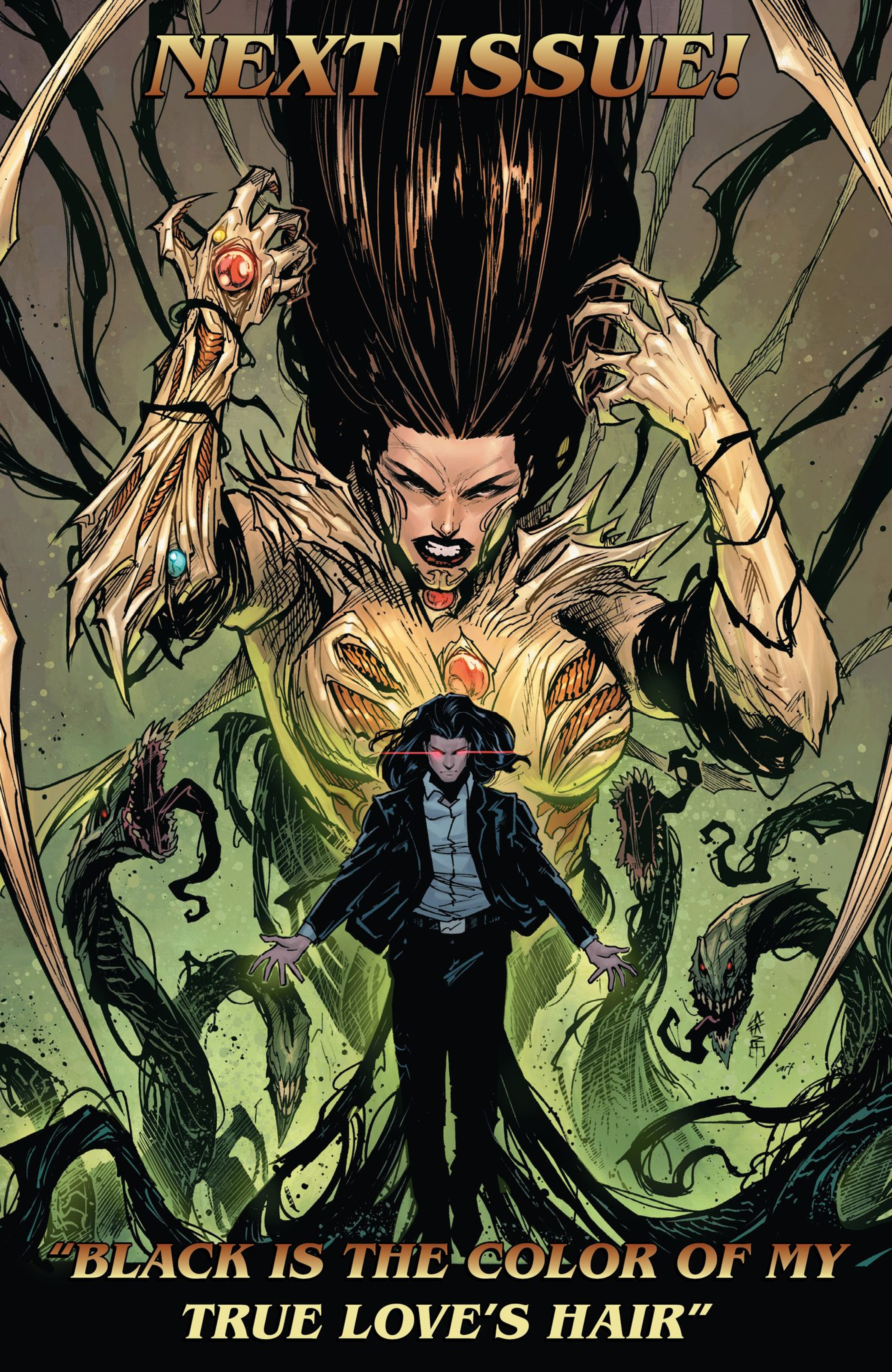

YOU KNOW, MY ORDERS WERE TO SHOOT YOU--MAYBE SHOOT WHATEVER LITTLE COCKTAIL WAITRESS YOU WERE SLAPPING AROUND THIS MONTH.
BUT YOU SEE, I'VE GOT THIS ISSUE WITH @**HOLES THAT SLAP WOMEN AROUND, SO...
THE BRONX ZOO.
...I'M THINKIN' A BULLET TO THE BACK OF THE HEAD MIGHT NOT HURT ENOUGH.
J... JACKIE... PLEASE..
OH, GOD!
PRETTY SURE HE DOESN'T LIKE @**HOLES LIKE YOU EITHER.
BON APPÉTIT, LADIES.
A ROSE PER LA SIGNORA.
...
5TH STREET


THE GANGSTERS IN *THE GODFATHER* WERE THE BAD GUYS, KID.
RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE
NYPD POLICE
NO BAD GUY THINKS HE'S THE BAD GUY, SIRY.
NOT EVEN THIS ONE.
KID DOESN'T SEEM INVOLVED IN THAT SIDE OF THE BUSINESS-- HE MIGHT NOT EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT.
BUT HE DOES KNOW ABOUT CLEANING UP HIS UNCLE'S MESSES, AND OUR INFORMANT SAID ESTACADO CALLED TO MEET HIM ***TONIGHT.***
WHERE?
THE BRONX ZOO.
SIRY, I NEED TO DO THIS ***ALO--***
SARA, IF YOU SAY ***ALONE,*** I'M PUTTING YOU ON ***PROBATION.***
YOU CAN PICK FIGHTS WITH MICHAEL, YOU CAN PICK FIGHTS WITH HALF THE ☠⚡★@ING PRECINCT--
BUT I WAS THERE WHEN YOU WERE TEETHING, AND I'M NOT GIVING UP ***THAT EASILY.***
GOOD GUY, BAD GUY, I DON'T GIVE A ***GOOD GODDAMN.***
THE BRONX ZOO IS A FEW BLOCKS FROM HERE.
...WE GOTTA HUSTLE.
NYPD


--INFORMANT'S WIRE JUST WENT DEAD--
♫♬♪♫♬♪
RONX ZOO
IT'S ALMOST DAWN--HOW IS IT GETTING **DARKER?**
KID, NOTHING'S CHANGED, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT--?
≈SNIFF≈
SWEET...
...BAKERY...?
THE AIR IS GETTING WARMER... **HOW?**
SARA!
AND THAT SMELL... **ACRID,** BUT...
COMPELLING...


...YOU?!

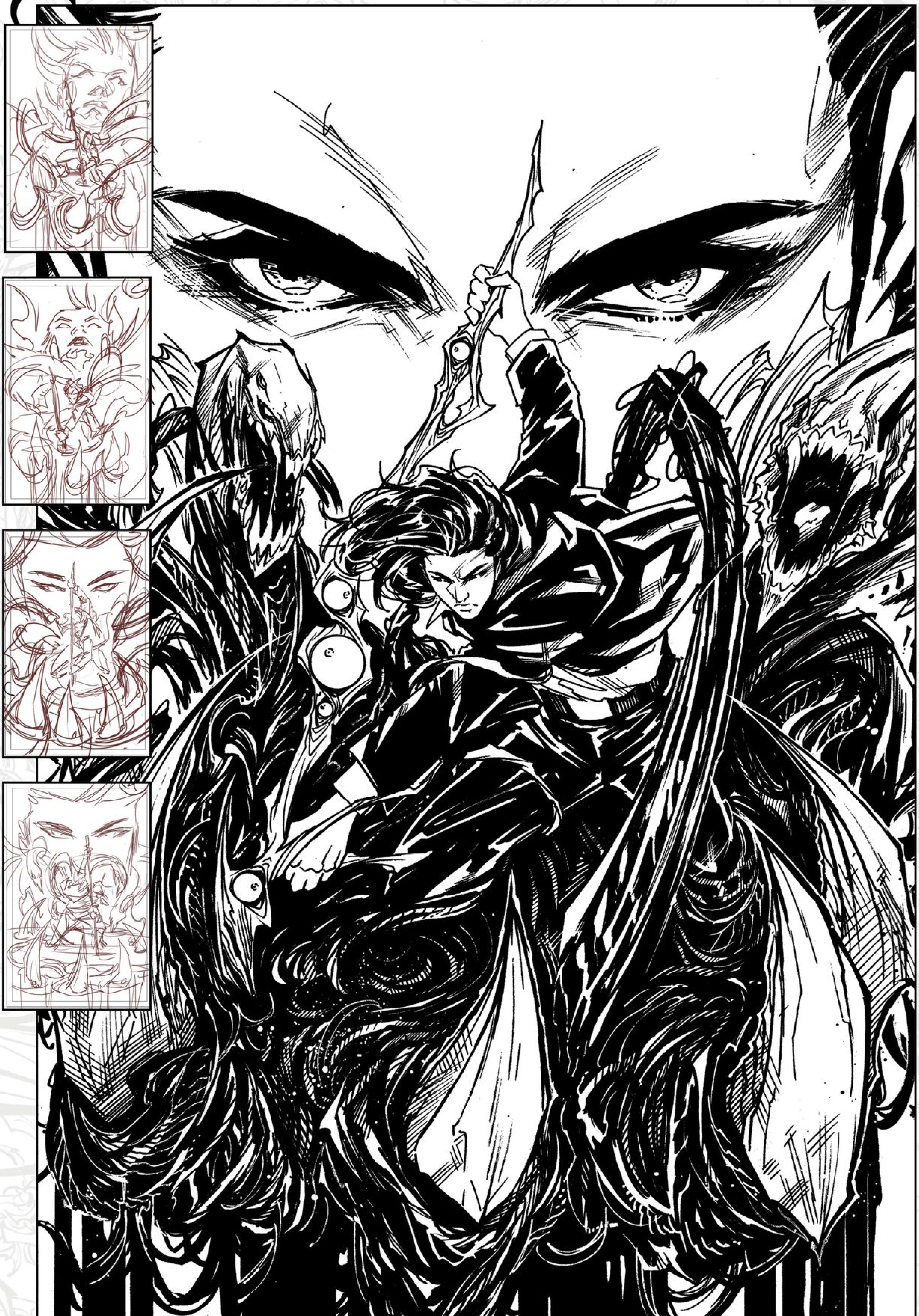

DROP IT!
TO BE CONTINUED...



NEXT ISSUE!

"BLACK IS THE COLOR OF MY TRUE LOVE'S HAIR"

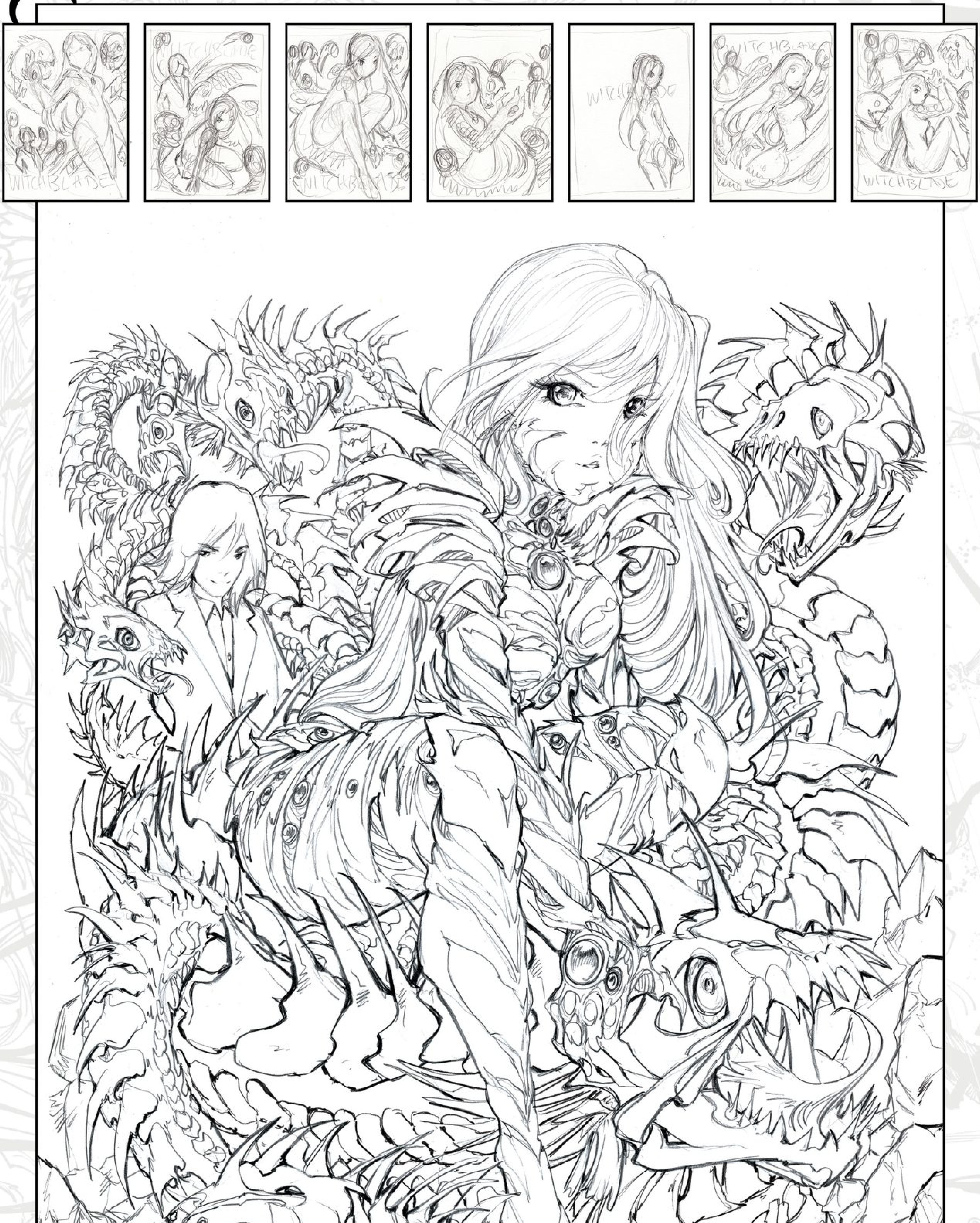
WITCHBLADE #8 Gallery • Cover A Process



Witchblade #8, Cover A, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**

+arif

WITCHBLADE #8 Gallery • Cover B Process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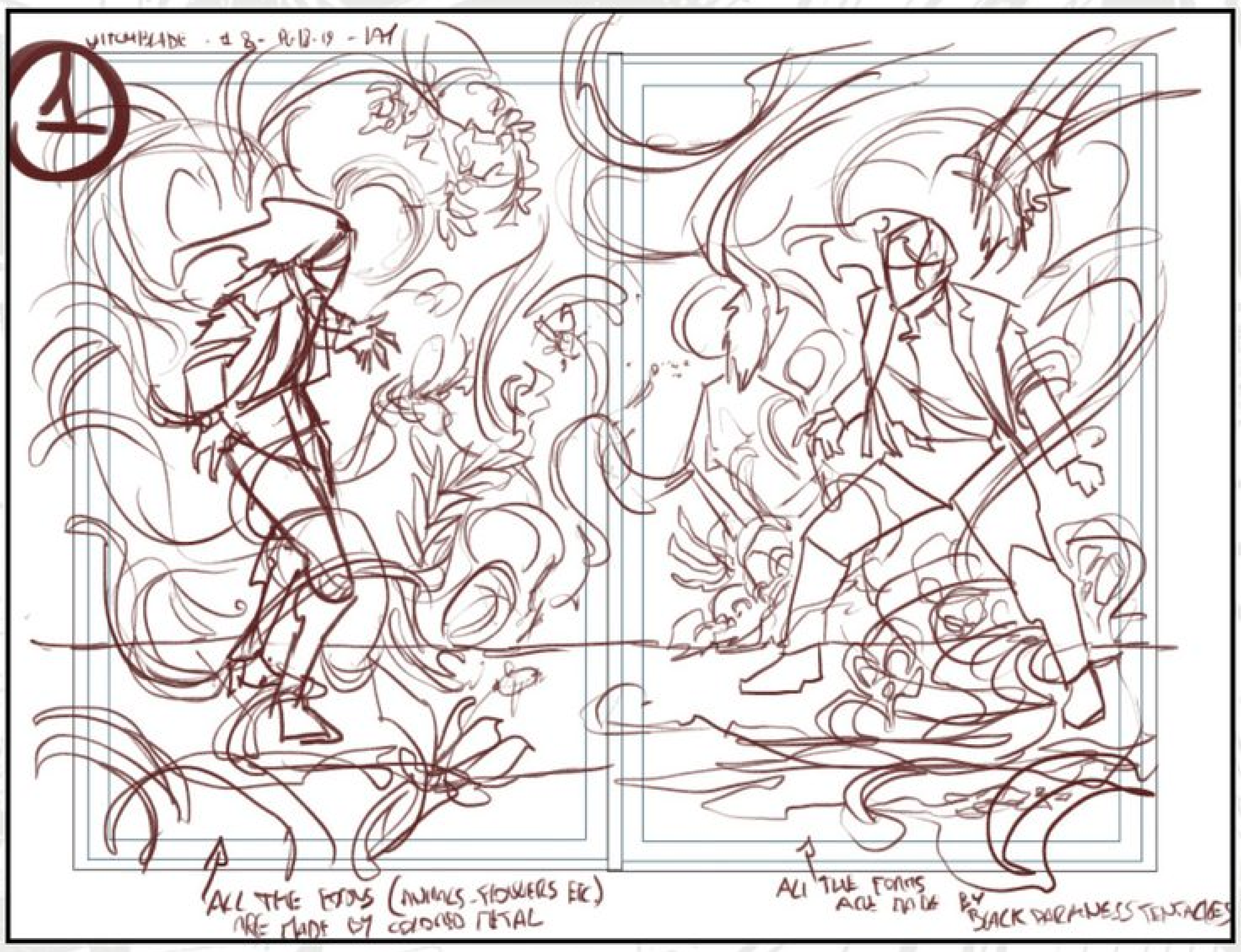
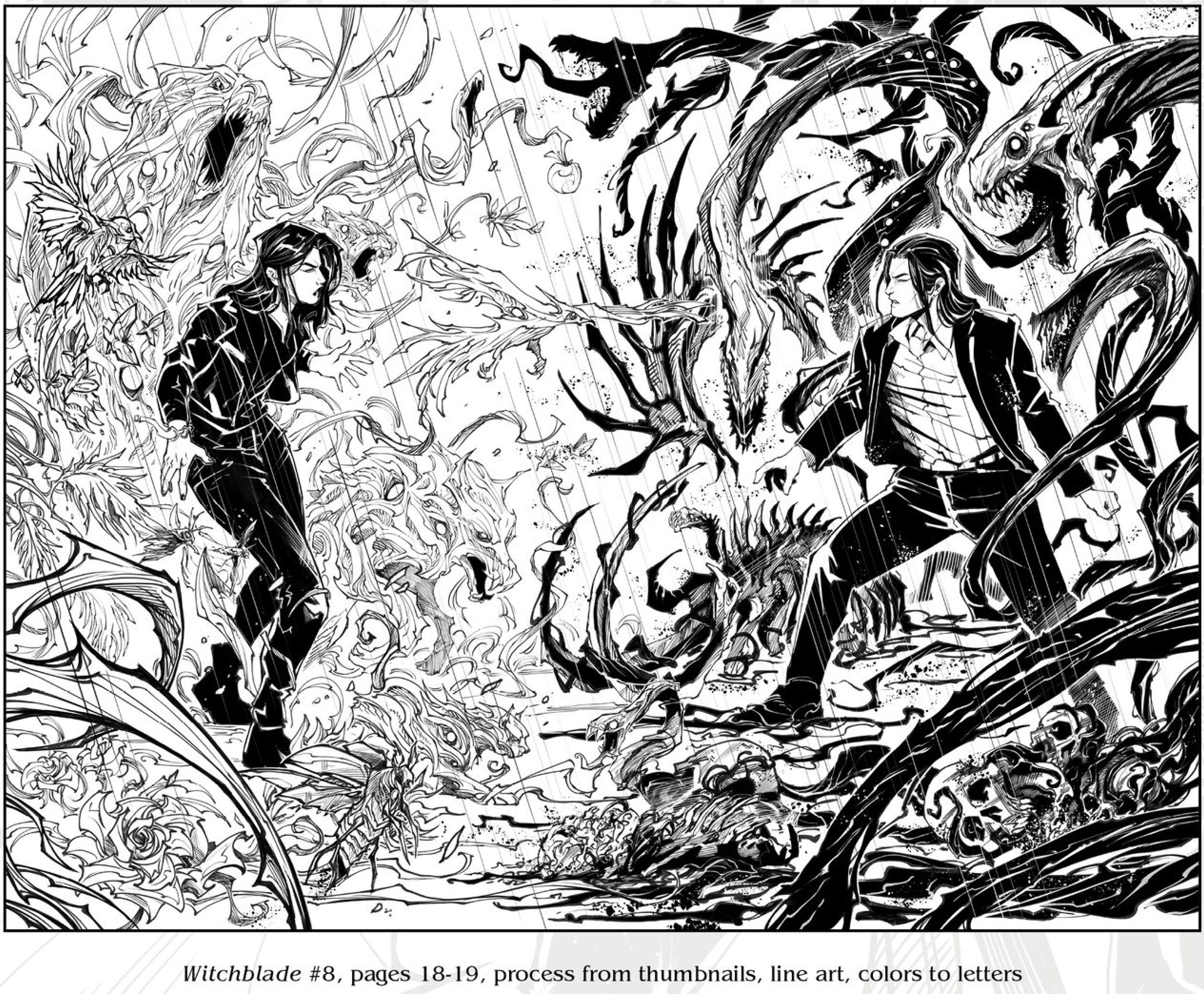
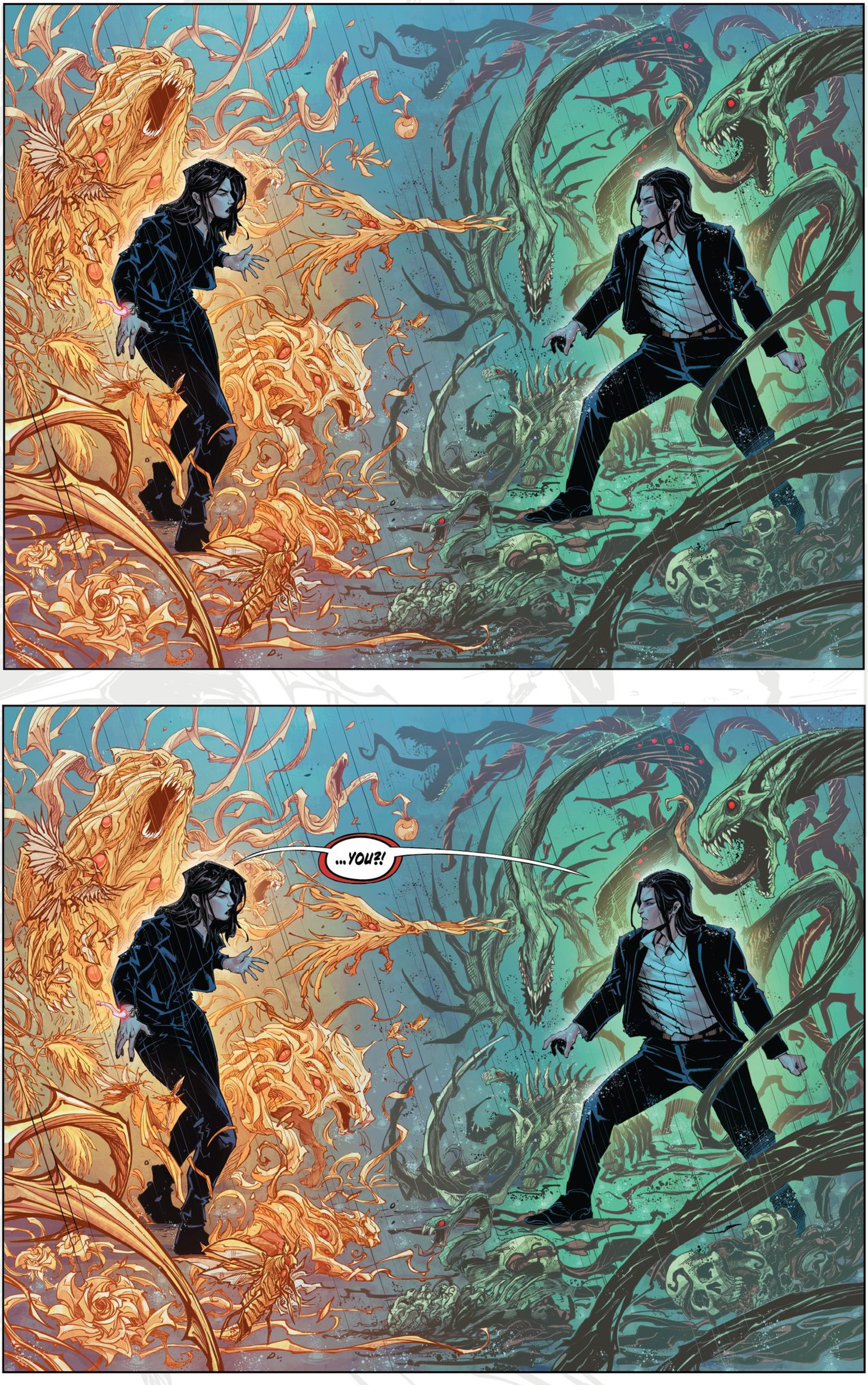
Witchblade #8, Cover B, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Camilla d'Errico** and **Asuka111**

#8 Gallery • Page Process


WITCHBLADE - #8 - P.18-19 - 1A4
①
ALL THE FORMS (ANIMALS - FLOWERS ETC) ARE MADE BY COLORED METAL
ALL THE FORMS ARE MADE BY BLACK DARKNESS TENTACLES



Witchblade #8, pages 18-19, process from thumbnails, line art, colors to letters


...YOU?!

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VOLUME 1
CYBER FORCE
WITCHBLADE
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WITCHBLADE
1
image
THE COMPLETE
The Darkness
VOLUME ONE
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STJEPAN SEJIC
Fine Print
1
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Blood Stain
BOOK ONE
ZzZz
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Sunstone
Mercy
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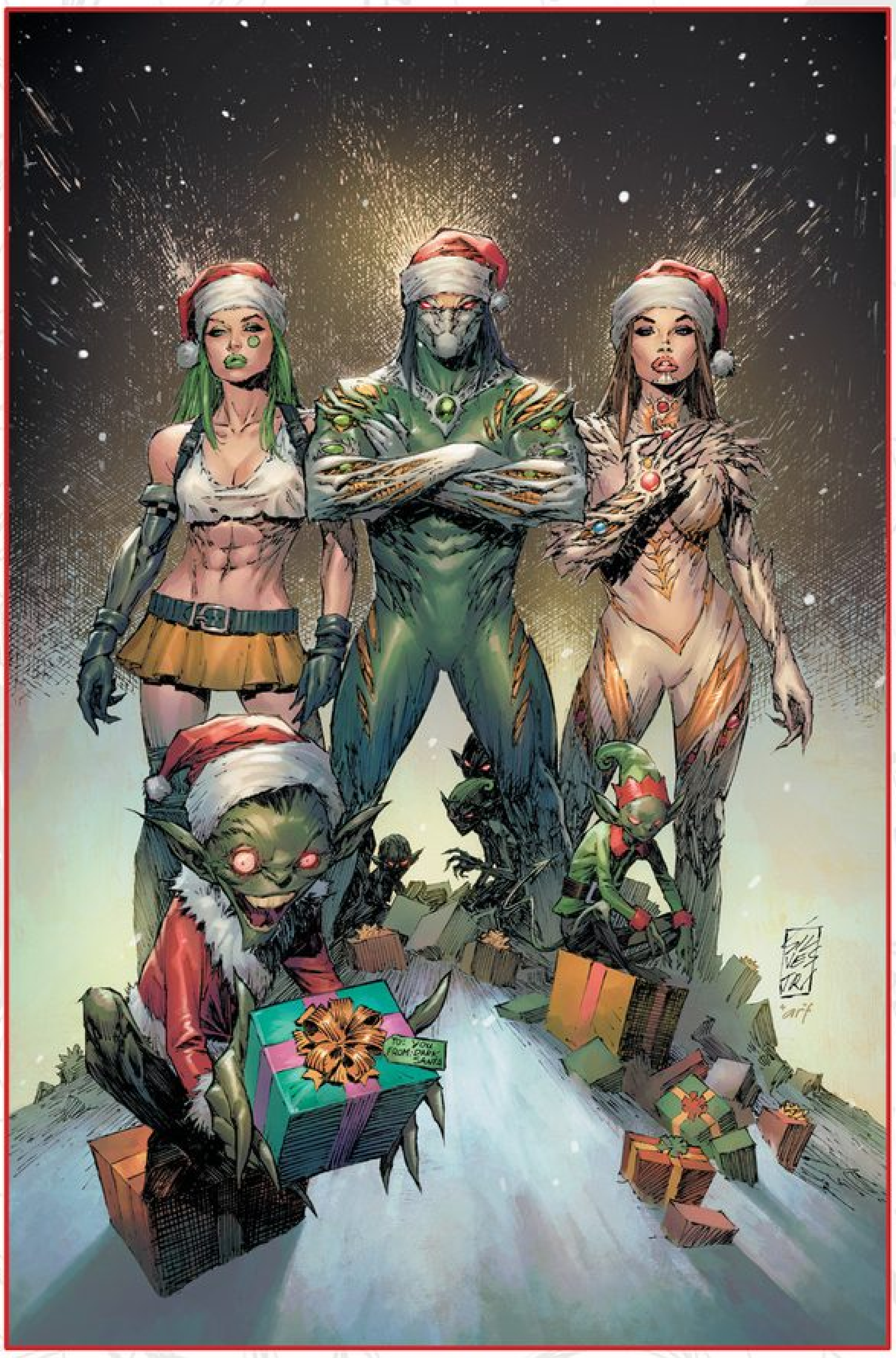

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Top Cow Store, Virgin Spot Foil **Exclusive!**
cover by **Marc Silvestri** and **Arif Prianto**

Witchblade #7, The first appearance of The Darkness!
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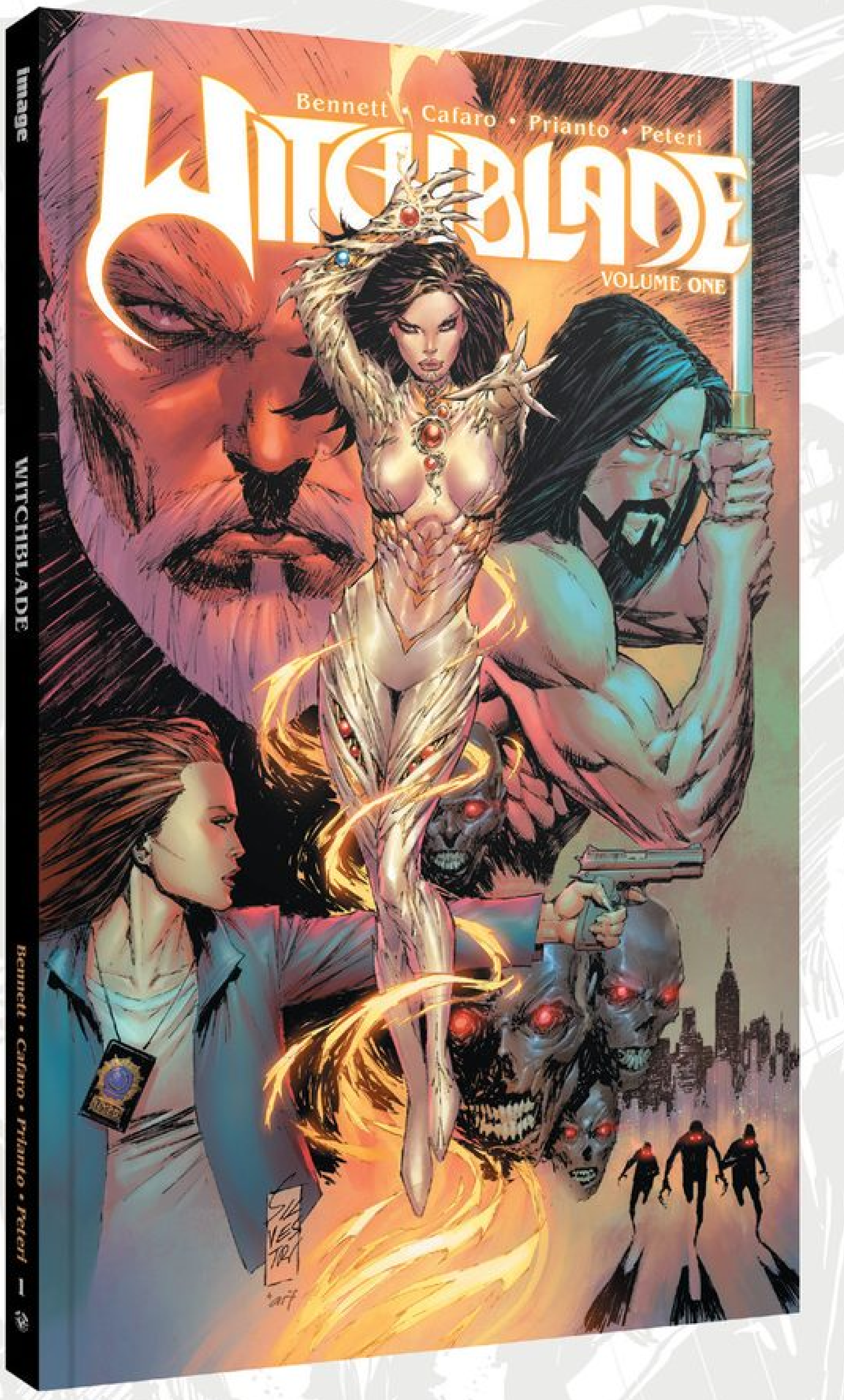
Witchblade #8
Top Cow Store, Virgin Spot Foil **Exclusive!**
cover by **Camilla d'Errico** and **Asuka111**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WITCHBLADE
VOLUME ONE
WITCHBLADE
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Witchblade volume 1
Written by **Marguerite Bennett** • Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**
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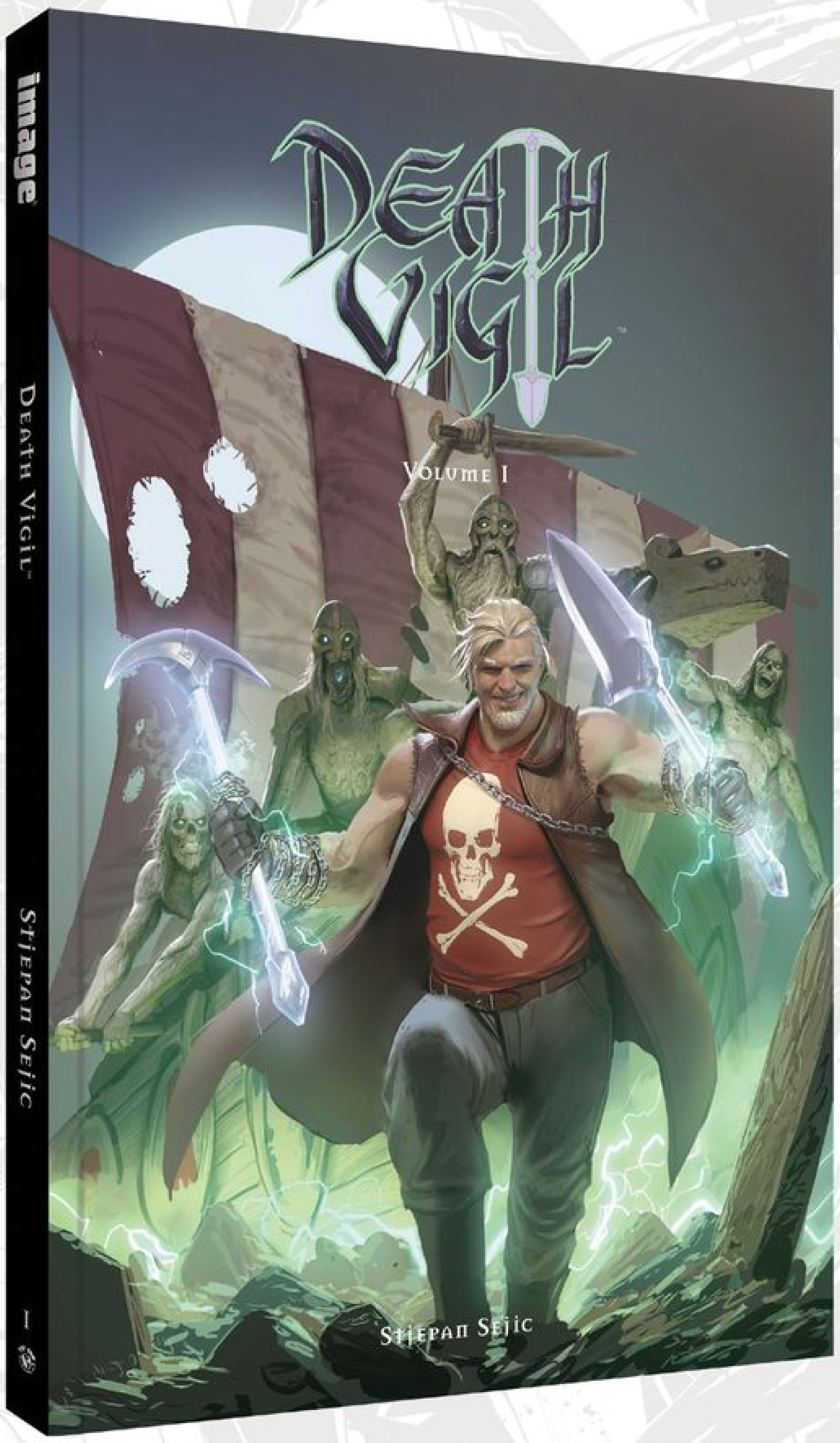
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DEATH VIGIL
VOLUME I
STJEPAN SEJIC
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Death Vigil volume 1 [New Printing]
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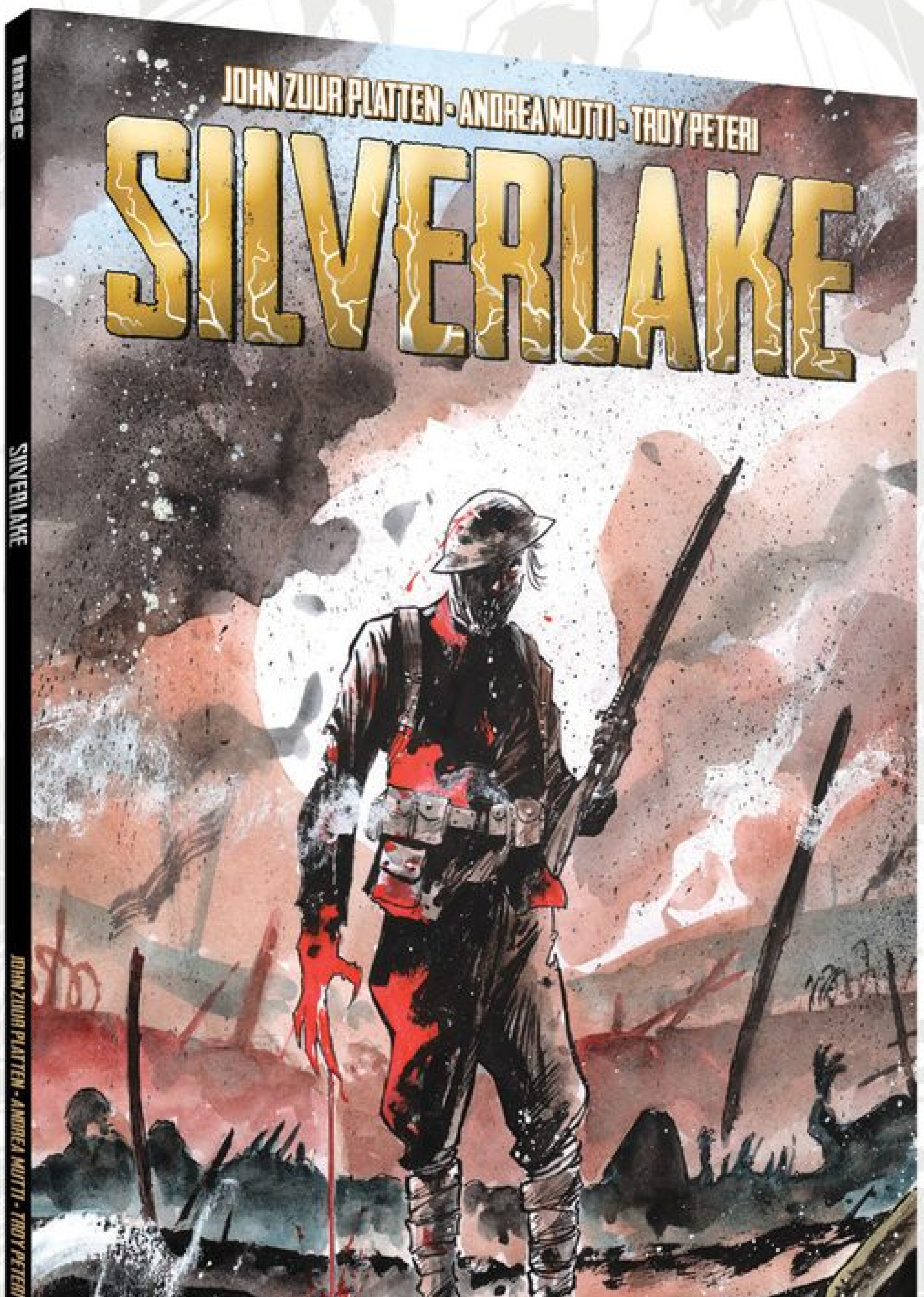
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Creative Team

Marguerite Bennett is a GLAAD-nominated, *New York Times*-bestselling comic book writer based in Los Angeles.

Her credits include DC Comics' *Bombshells, Batwoman* and *RWBY*, along with *Animosity*, *Horde*, and *Insexts* through Aftershock Comics, and *MOTHER OF MADNESS* with *Game of Thrones* superstar Emilia Clarke for Image Comics. She has written *Mighty Morphin Power Ranger*s for Boom Studios, *Josie and the Pussycats* through Archie, *A-Force* and *Years of Future Past* at Marvel, *Red Sonja* and *Sheena* from Dynamite, and the indie horror darling *The Lot* for Bad Idea.

She is the lead writer of *Ark: The Animated Serie*s from Studio Wildcard.

Giuseppe Cafaro is an Italian artist who is based in Caserta, Italy. He started his professional career with the Italian publisher GGStudio, and right after, in 2012, he started to work for Aspen Comics on books like *Soulfire, Fathom: Kiani* and *Trish out of Water*, and Zenescope Entertainment as a cover artist for several years.

He worked over the last 10 years with other publishers, like DC Comics, on *Suicide Squad* and *Catwoman*, and Dynamite Entertainment, on *Red Sonja* and *Vampirella*. He also worked on graphic novels for Boom Studios based on the *Power Rangers* franchise.

In 2021, he collaborated with Tim Seeley and Steve Orlando on *LOADED BIBLE* for Image Comics. Also, he worked on some short stories for Heavy Metal with Blake Northcott and with Phil Smith for the book *Brik Jones: Attorney for Earth*, for his publisher Fighting Lion Comics.

Arif Prianto followed his dreams of working in comics and began his career as a professional colorist in 2007. Since then he has worked on titles from Top Cow Productions, Inc on *WITCHBLADE, THE DARKNESS*, for DC on *Batman & The Joker, Dark Knights of Steel,* and for Marvel on *Venom* and *Spider Woman*. He says that coloring comics is "the best job ever!"

Troy Peteri has lettered everything from *The Avengers, Iron Man, Wolverine, Amazing Spider-Man* and *X-Men* to more recent titles such as *WITCHBLADE, CYBERFORCE,* and *Batman/Wonder Woman: The Brave & The Bold*.

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WITCHBLADE
VOLUME ONE
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WITCHBLADE
VOLUME ONE

"Hard-boiled supernatural noir hypercharged for the 21st century."
—Kieron Gillen
(DIE, PHONOGRAM)

"Writer Marguerite Bennett continues a meticulous re-imagining of an enduring indie comics hero..."
Grade A – *You Don't Read Comics*

"It is hard to hit the right balance when rebooting a series. The creative team needs to walk the tightrope of introducing fresh ideas while not ignoring the established lore. Bennett and her team have done just that with WITCHBLADE (#1)."
9.1/10 – *Geek'd Out*

"An origin story that hits hard and fast! Bennett and Cafaro's WITCHBLADE is a gritty and exciting reimagining that leaves you desperately wanting issue two!"
– Chip Zdarsky
(SEX CRIMINALS, Batman)

The first volume of a new WITCHBLADE series combines a reimagined origin with contemporary takes on familiar characters and new story arcs that rekindle the energy and excitement that fueled the '90s Image Revolution, which shaped generations of top creators.

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city, where an ancient power collides and transforms her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings. Electrified with power, strength, healing, pleasure, and rage, every temptation lures her from her mission to find her father's killer. Sara thinks she possesses the Witchblade—but does it possess her?

This volume also includes an exclusive three-page teaser featuring another pillar of the Top Cow Universe, **THE DARKNESS!**

First printing introductory price of only $9.99 • Collects WITCHBLADE (2024) #1-6+#1/2
200 pages • Full Color • T+/Teen Plus • Lunar Order Code: 1124IM272 • ISBN: 978-1-5343-6060-0

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COVER A ART BY **GIUSEPPE CAFARO** AND **ARIF PRIANTO**
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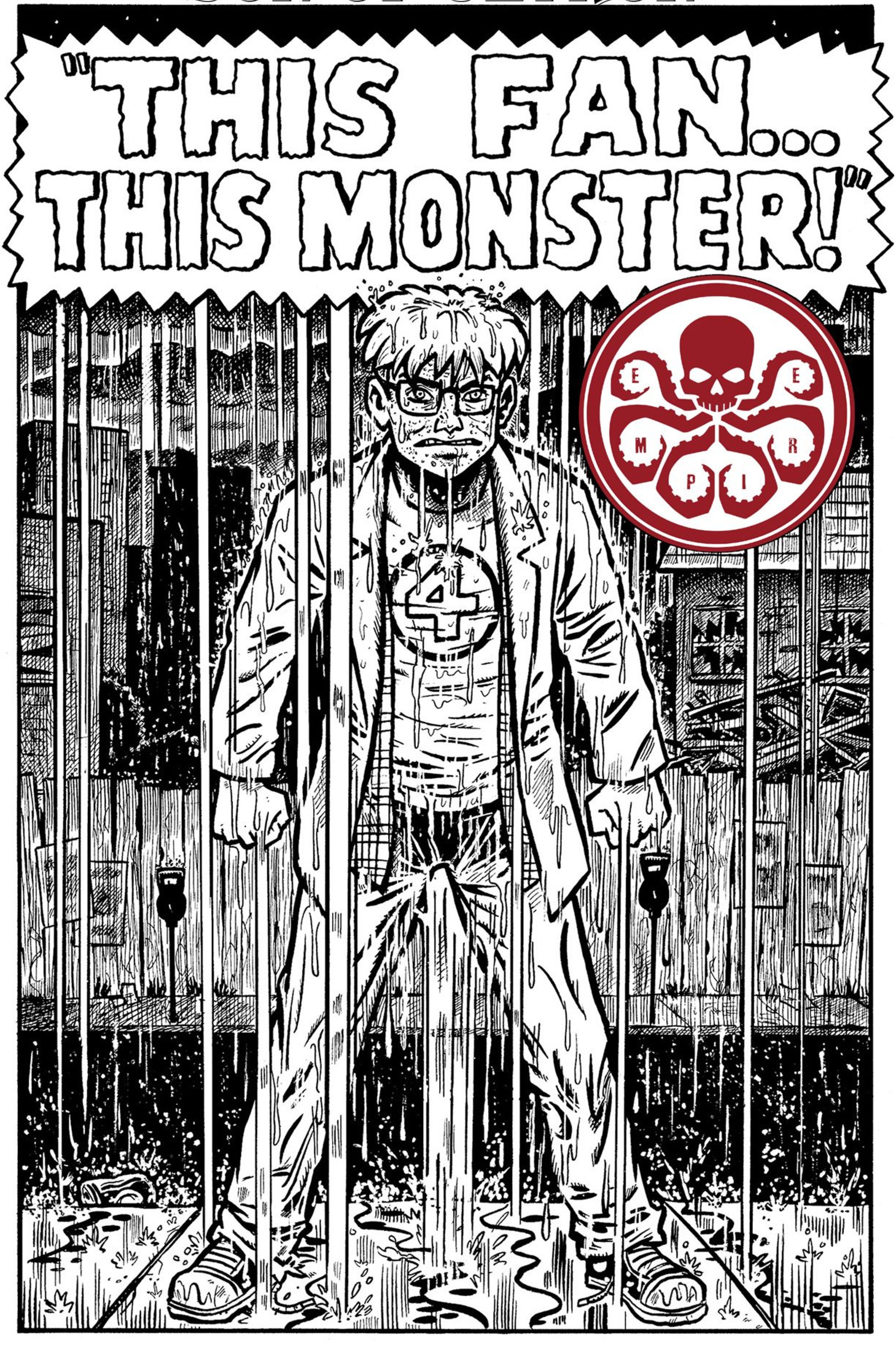
SON OF ULTRON


"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"